IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In Re:)) Case No. 08-61570-RBK
Yellowstone Mountain Club, LLC,)
Debtor.)
(Full caption on next page)	_ ,

THE HON. RALPH B. KIRSCHER, presiding

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

November 12, 2008

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IN THE UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT FOR THE DISTRICT OF MONTANA

In Re:)
Yellowstone Mountain Club, LLC,) Case No. 08-61570-11
Debtor,))
Yellowstone Development, LLC,) Case No. 08-61571-11
Debtor,))
Big Sky Ridge, LLC,) Case No. 08-61572-11
Debtor,))
Yellowstone Club Construction Company, LLC,) Case No. 08-61573-11)
Debtor.	,))

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1 YELLOWSTONE MOUNTAIN CLUB BANKRUPTCY 2 MISSOULA, MONTANA 3 4 BE IT REMEMBERED THAT this matter came on for hearing on November 12, 2008, in the United States Bankruptcy 5 6 Court, District of Montana, The Hon. Ralph B. Kirscher, 7 presiding: 8 The following proceedings were had: 9 10 11 THE COURT: Good afternoon. Please be seated. 12 Let's go ahead. 13 Mr. Patten, I'm not sure, regarding the four 14 entities, if we want to just refer to all -- well, let me 15 just refer to all four of them at this point before we consider, either today or later, your motion to 16 consolidate. 17 18 MR. PATTEN: Okay. 19 THE COURT: Scheduled for today at this time, In 20 Re: Yellowstone Club, LLC, 08-61570; Yellowstone 21 Development, LLC, 08-61571; Blue Sky Ridge, LLC, 08-61572; 22 Yellowstone Club Construction Company, LLC, 08-61573. 23 Two matters have been scheduled in each case: 24 Motion for joint administration as well as motion 25 authorizing Debtors to obtain postpetition financing,

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authorizing Debtors to utilize cash collateral -
(inaudible) - adequate protection to prepetition secured
lenders, scheduling interim and final hearings filed by
Debtor.
          There are objections that have been filed as to
the motion authorizing Debtors to obtain postpetition
financing. I did not see, but may have missed it, any
objections to the motions for joint administration.
          Mr. Patten.
          MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, first as a point of
clarification, there is some typos in some of the filings.
It's Big Sky Ridge and not Blue Sky Ridge.
          THE COURT: Okay, okay.
          MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, I'm not aware of any
objections to the joint administration.
          THE COURT: Okay. There is time for response,
still, on that --
          MR. PATTEN: Okay.
          THE COURT: -- under the 10-day negative notice.
          I will have all counsel that have been admitted
state their appearances.
          MR. HINGLE: Charles Hingle for Credit Suisse.
          THE COURT: Now, I want to make sure that they
can pick you up on the recording. You may need to be by a
microphone. Let's just do an entourage to the mike, and --
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MR. HINGLE: Your Honor, Chuck Hingle for Credit
        I'm with, today with two gentlemen from the
Suisse.
Skadden firm in Wilmington, Mark Chehi and Evan Levy.
          THE COURT: Okay. And both have you have been
admitted, as I recall, pro hac.
          MR. HINGLE: Pro hac motions have been filed for
both, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: Yes, thank you. Welcome.
          MR. EISENBERG: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
Joseph A. Eisenberg - Jeffer, Mangels, Butler & Marmaro -
appearing on behalf of Ms. Blixseth. There's a pro hac
application which is somewhere in process.
          THE COURT: Okay, thank you. Mr. Grant.
          MR. GRANT: Your Honor, John Grant for the Ad Hoc
Committee of Yellowstone Club Members.
          And we have also filed a motion for pro hac vice
admission of Jonathan Alter.
          THE COURT: Okay.
          MR. GRANT: And he is here, and I'd like your
permission for him to argue.
          THE COURT: Okay. I'm assuming you've paid the
pro hac fee and -- with your motion.
          MR. GRANT:
                      I was in the, I was in the car coming
here as it was being filed.
          THE COURT: Okay, okay.
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MR. GRANT: So I'm certain that it -- if it
1
 2
     hasn't been, it will be by the end of the day.
                THE COURT: Okay, thank you.
 3
 4
                MR. GRANT:
                            Thank you, Your Honor.
                MS. WHITNEY: Your Honor, Teresa Whitney for
 5
 6
     Montana Department of Revenue.
 7
                With me, I have Joel Silverman, also representing
     Department of Revenue. And we have filed an application
 8
 9
     for pro hac for Lynn Butler, and it is my understanding the
     fees are in the mail.
10
11
                THE COURT: Okay. We've all heard that before.
12
                Mr. Rhoades.
13
                MR. RHOADES: Your Honor, Quentin Rhoades, on
14
     behalf of Normandy Hill Capital.
15
                MR. CUFFE: Your Honor, Matt Cuffe - Worden Thane
     - here on behalf of Michael Snow, a Class B member and a
16
     creditor.
17
18
                TRUSTEE McKAY: Good afternoon, Your Honor.
19
     McKay for the Office of the U.S. Trustee.
20
                MR. STENSLAND: Dean Stensland with the law firm
21
     of Boone Karlberg representing Prim Vintage Development,
22
     LP.
23
                MR. CADWALLADER: Mark Cadwallader, Montana
24
     Department of Labor and Industry.
25
                MR. HURSH: Benjamin Hursh with the Crowley Law
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1
     Firm here on behalf of CrossHarbor.
 2
                THE COURT: Okay.
                            Steve Brown with the Garlington Law
 3
                MR. BROWN:
     Firm, and I'm here on behalf of the Garlington Law Firm.
 4
                THE COURT:
                            Okay. Any others that wish to state
 5
 6
     their appearances?
 7
                MR. GUTHALS: Yes, Your Honor.
                                                This is Joel
 8
     Guthals in Billings. And, Your Honor, I'm appearing on
 9
     behalf of Timothy Blixseth, creditor.
10
                THE COURT: Okay.
11
                MR. WHITMORE: Your Honor, this is Clark
12
     Whitmore.
                I'm appearing for Mike Snow in addition to Matt
     Cuffe.
13
14
                And I believe that a pro hac vice application has
     been filed.
15
16
                THE COURT:
                            Okay.
                MR. WHITMORE: And Mr. Cuffe --
17
18
                MR. MIETTINEN: Your Honor --
19
                THE COURT: Go ahead.
20
                MR. MIETTINEN: Your Honor, Jaska Miettinen with
21
     Bingham McCutchen for the Ad Hoc Committee of Yellowstone
22
     Club Members on the phone.
23
                THE COURT: Okay. We're having -- from the
24
     standpoint of everyone here in the Missoula courtroom, I'm
25
     finding it very hard to hear the people on the telephone.
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I'm not sure if it's a volume thing, or whatever, but I
would venture to say there's probably no one that heard the
two people that just spoke except maybe me, in part.
          Is Mr. Manson appearing in Butte?
          THE CLERK:
                      Judge, Mr. Manson is not here.
          THE COURT:
                      Okay. No one's appearing in Butte?
          THE CLERK: No, there isn't.
          THE COURT: Okay. And only Mr. Guthals in
Billings, okay.
          Initially, obviously -- Mr. Patten.
          MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, I want to ask the
Court's permission that Mr. Eisenberg, who's not been
admitted pro hac vice yet, be permitted to represent
Ms. Blixseth in these proceedings today.
          THE COURT: Okay. It's in process, as I
understand.
          MR. EISENBERG: Yes, Your Honor.
          THE COURT: Okay, very well. Just, I quess, a
little bit of discussion about ground rules and background.
Obviously, this has been filed on fairly short notice,
hearings have been set with fairly short notice.
Obviously, everyone's had notice of the hearing or we
wouldn't have a courtroom full of people. So I am going to
take that as a comment that, in fact, everybody does have
notice and notice as a position on the motions that have
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been filed.

As it relates to just proceeding and appearing before this Court, we may meet, depending on where we need to meet, in different locations. It just happened today that I was here, and it may have been easier to get people in and out of Missoula than maybe some other sites. I don't know that. But we may also -- this is actually a case that would be normally heard in Butte. That's probably where the 341 meeting, in fact, will be scheduled as it's scheduled. But we may hear, may hear parts of this in Billings, Great Falls. Whatever the need is and the urgency of the matter, we will schedule things wherever and whenever.

As it relates to video conferencing and the use of video conferencing, if you don't know, you will soon know that I am an advocate of video conferencing and expect people to use it rather than traveling over the country to attend. Typically, we like to keep the sites to four just because we can have all -- we have three, three sites up now, but we can have four sites up. We can also cascade to other sites depending upon the need. But if you're appearing from out of state, you might want to look into facilities nearby for purposes of accessibility, and whether matters come up on short notice, if you could appear by use of video conferencing. I use it for

everything, for uncontested, contested trials, whatever.

So I'm going to push it. And if it's not being used by people that have to travel a lot, which incurs a lot of expense, I'm going to look at those very carefully, why you weren't appearing by video, as it relates to travel expense, airline expense, all of that. So keep that in mind. There are some things you just can't appear by video - that's fine, I understand - but at least be aware it's there, and I expect it to be used.

I would imagine there may be press that has some interest in this case. If so, they're certainly welcome at any of the hearings. They're public hearings. And, certainly, we'll make accommodation for them. I don't know if there's any press here today or not, but if there is, you're certainly welcome. If you need background information or if you need other information from public documents that might be filed with the Court, then you should contact the clerk's office in Butte. That's where all matters are filed.

As it relates to recording, we digitally record. That's being recorded in Butte as we speak, which goes over the video conferencing lines. But the Court staff there is very accommodating, very helpful, so if you need something, please contact them.

I expect the parties to be civil; get through the

matters that we need to; put on the evidence as need be; present exhibits in advance, file them online unless they're extensive, voluminous. Then I'll certainly consider that they be either sent to me or, or -- by mail or Federal Express, or whatever.

But I use CM/ECF exclusively on the bench. I try
to get away from the paper. So if you have things you want
to get filed or you want to get to the Court, you don't
need to send extra copies to chambers - it's a waste of
your paper and your postage - because I'll pick it up off
of online unless it's, like I say, voluminous. So if you
have a question about anything like that that you're
wanting to submit and whether it's too big or not, check
with Lynn Myers, who's the chief deputy clerk. And on any
matters, feel free to either contact her or the chief
clerk, Bernie McCarthy, and they will get back to me if
there's an issue that needs to be resolved.

In a case like this, I expect to move through it quickly. I will devote as much time as necessary to it to make sure it gets done. I expect counsel to do the same and the parties to do the same; meet the deadlines, filing schedules, all of those things I expect to be done.

What am I overlooking or missing -- it's probably standard for all of you in the courts that you appear in.

So with that, Mr. Patten, I'll let you proceed.

- 1 MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, I would call Edra
- 2 Blixseth.
- THE COURT: If you could come to the podium to be
- 4 | sworn by the clerk, who will appear on the video. You can
- 5 just stand right there by the microphone for now.
- 6 EDRA BLIXSETH, WITNESS, SWORN
- 7 DIRECT EXAMINATION
- 8 BY MR. PATTEN:
- 9 Q. Would you please state your name?
- 10 A. Edra Blixseth. Am I too close?
- 11 Q. And, Ms. Blixseth, what's your relationship with what
- 12 | is known as the Yellowstone Club?
- 13 A. I'm the owner of BGI, who owns the Yellowstone Clubs.
- 14 Q. Okay. And it's correct, isn't it, that there are
- 15 | several entities that make up the Yellowstone Club?
- 16 A. That's correct.
- 17 Q. Could you advise the Court of what the names of those
- 18 entities are?
- 19 A. Yellowstone -- what we call "YDI", Yellowstone
- 20 Development, Inc.; Yellowstone Mountain Club; Big Sky
- 21 Ridge.
- 22 | O. And do these entities also own other companies,
- 23 | corporations, or limited liability companies?
- 24 A. There are some other companies, yes --
- 25 O. Okay.

- 1 A. -- involved in that, yeah.
- 2 Q. There's a company named "Yellowstone Hotel Management"?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 0. Who owns that?
- 5 A. I have to tell you, Yellowstone Hotel was, was created
- 6 during the time -- the last couple of years, I've been
- 7 | frozen out of Yellowstone Club. That was created during
- 8 | that time. So when I answer those questions, I want to
- 9 give that caveat that I might not be up to speed quite yet
- 10 on that, but I think that that is owned by YDI.
- 11 Q. Okay. And before we go any further, how long has it
- 12 been since you were not frozen out of the --
- 13 A. Just August of this year.
- 14 Q. Okay. So you're still getting up to speed on the
- 15 details?
- 16 A. Trying very hard.
- 17 Q. Okay. There's a company called Sunrise Ridge?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. Well, let me go back. What does Yellowstone Hotel
- 20 Management do?
- 21 A. It owns Buck's T-4.
- 22 Q. Okay. And is that used for housing for employees?
- 23 A. Correct.
- 24 Q. Sunrise Ridge does what?
- 25 A. Sunrise Ridge was actually sold to CrossHarbor.

- 1 | There's a small portion of Sunrise Ridge that we still have
- 2 | an agreement with CrossHarbor that there are some other
- 3 partners involved with.
- 4 Q. What is Sunrise Ridge?
- 5 A. It's a, it's -- I hate using "condo", but it's a chalet
- 6 development within Yellowstone Club.
- 7 Q. Okay. There's an entity called "Yellowstone
- 8 Utilities"?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 0. What is that?
- 11 A. That's the, the corporation in which we have the
- 12 utilities that provide utilities for Yellowstone Club.
- 13 Q. Okay. There's something called "St. Andrews Golf Club
- 14 International"?
- 15 A. That was a purchase that was for the now defunct
- 16 Yellowstone Club World that was going to be developed into
- 17 a golf course.
- 18 Q. And there's an entity called "Cosborn Investments"?
- 19 A. That's an entity that holds the Chateau Farcheville
- 20 | that's just outside of Paris that was also a Yellowstone
- 21 Club World location.
- 22 Q. Okay. And is that the French castle?
- 23 A. Yes, otherwise known as.
- 24 | Q. And is Cosborn Investments owned by Yellowstone
- 25 Development?

- 1 A. Yes, it is.
- 2 | O. Other than the St. Andrews and the Cosborn and the
- 3 other -- the debtors in this case, Yellowstone Mountain
- 4 | Club, Yellowstone Development, Big Sky Ridge, Yellowstone
- 5 Club Construction Company, Yellowstone Hotel Management,
- 6 | Sunrise Ridge, and Yellowstone Utilities are all involved,
- 7 | in one aspect or the other, of the Yellowstone Club?
- 8 A. That's correct.
- 9 Q. Okay. Can you describe to Judge Kirscher, please, what
- 10 | the Yellowstone Club is? What kind of business is it
- 11 engaged in? What does it own, generally?
- 12 A. Well, Yellowstone Club, in my definition, is in the, in
- 13 the business of providing an experience and a Montana
- 14 experience to certain people that want to be able to be
- 15 here and own property. Sometimes it's been described as a
- 16 | real-estate development, but that's not how I've ever
- 17 | viewed it. And that's always been our philosophy within
- 18 our sales program.
- 19 Q. Is it a resort or an experience kind of a business?
- 20 A. It's a resort that allows families to enjoy the Montana
- 21 experience from skiing to fishing to golfing in the summer
- 22 and everything else that Montana has to offer.
- 23 Q. And the families are members of the club?
- 24 A. Correct.
- Q. And in order to utilize the club's facilities, you have

- 1 to be a member?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. How many employees does the Yellowstone Club
- 4 have?
- 5 A. It varies from season, when we're off season and when
- 6 | we're at full season, but anywhere from 400 to 600.
- 7 Q. What time of the year is the busiest season
- 8 | employment-wise for the Yellowstone Club?
- 9 A. Gearing up right now to get ready for the holiday
- 10 season going all the way through April 15th.
- 11 | O. The ski season?
- 12 A. The ski season.
- 13 Q. Okay. And does the Yellowstone Club create -- let me
- 14 back up.
- 15 A. Okay.
- 16 Q. Generally, what's the monthly payroll of the
- 17 Yellowstone Club?
- 18 A. It's about 600,000.
- 19 Q. Okay. And does the Yellowstone Club spend money
- 20 locally on goods, services, contracts, and such?
- 21 A. We try to, we try to use as many local vendors and
- 22 | Montana -- both -- vendors, purveyors, contractors, that
- 23 kind of thing, yes.
- 24 | Q. Is the Yellowstone Club significant to the local
- economy?

- 1 A. I believe it is, yes.
- 2 Q. What's the value of the Yellowstone Club real-estate
- 3 assets?
- 4 A. The value, the value on the, the books of the
- 5 Yellowstone Club for the real estate is about 780,
- 6 780 million.
- 7 Q. Okay. And are there unsold memberships to the
- 8 Yellowstone Club?
- 9 A. Yes, there are.
- 10 Q. How many?
- 11 A. We're at 360-something now, I think, and we're going to
- 12 864.
- 13 Q. Okay. What's the value of the unsold memberships?
- 14 A. That would be \$360 million \$380 million.
- 15 Q. Okay. And then there will be a number of items of
- 16 personal property of ski lifts, and irrigation systems,
- 17 furniture, and so forth?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And those are all set out in the various bankruptcy
- 20 schedules that we've filed in this case?
- 21 A. Yes, they are.
- 22 | Q. And the values of all of that property, to the best of
- 23 | your ability, is as set out in the bankruptcy schedules?
- 24 A. Yes, they are.
- 25 Q. Generally, what are the liabilities of the Yellowstone

- 1 | Club, just in total dollars?
- 2 A. Including Credit Suisse?
- 3 Q. Yes.
- 4 A. Oh, 355 360.
- 5 Q. Million?
- 6 A. Million. Sorry.
- 7 | Q. Thank you. You're familiar with the Credit Suisse
- 8 loan?
- 9 A. Yes, I am.
- 10 Q. And that's a loan that Credit Suisse is an agent for a
- 11 | bunch of other lenders; is that right?
- 12 A. Yes, it is.
- 13 Q. Okay. When did the Yellowstone Club start business?
- 14 When did it start selling memberships?
- 15 A. When it started business and when it started selling
- 16 memberships are kind of two different things. And I'll go
- 17 | back to 1999, I wish Charlie was over here, 1998 1999.
- 18 Q. That's when it started business?
- 19 A. That's when it started selling memberships.
- 20 Q. Okay. And you've involved in the Yellowstone Club
- 21 | since 1998 1999?
- 22 A. From the beginning.
- 23 Q. Okay. Did you have an official role in the operations
- 24 for the Yellowstone Club?
- 25 A. Yes. Until just a couple years ago, I was the COO.

- 1 Q. "Chief operating officer"?
- 2 A. Correct.
- 3 Q. Okay. And then something happened a couple years ago?
- 4 A. Yes.
- 5 Q. What was it that happened a couple years ago?
- 6 A. I filed for divorce.
- 7 Q. Okay. And did you cease being the chief operating
- 8 officer upon filing your divorce?
- 9 A. It actually happened just a little bit prior to that.
- 10 You don't normally file for divorce -- something leads up
- 11 to it. So I believe about six months prior to that could
- 12 be a little longer I resigned by position as COO, Tim
- 13 resigned his position as COO, and Dieter Huckestein was
- 14 hired to become president and CEO.
- 15 Q. And during the period of your divorce, did you have any
- 16 involvement in the operation of the Yellowstone Club?
- 17 A. I was completely frozen out.
- 18 | Q. Were you frozen out of the information regarding
- 19 Yellowstone Club?
- 20 A. I was frozen out of everything.
- 21 | Q. Everything. So during the period of the freeze-out,
- 22 | I'll call it, you obtained no inside information regarding
- 23 the operations of the Yellowstone Club?
- 24 A. During that time?
- 25 O. Yes.

- 1 A. Yeah; no, I did not.
- Q. Okay. When, when was your divorce completed?
- 3 A. It just was finalized about a month ago.
- 4 Q. Okay. Prior to a month ago, did you become active
- 5 again in the operations of the Yellowstone Club?
- 6 A. Yes. We signed an MSA in which I bought BGI, and that
- 7 | closed in August of this year. And BGI owns Yellowstone
- 8 Clubs.
- 9 Q. Okay. Tell me, if you would, what an MSA is?
- 10 A. Oh, a marital settlement agreement. Sorry.
- 11 Q. Okay. So as part of your divorce settlement, you ended
- 12 up with BGI, which is Blixseth Group, Inc.?
- 13 A. It was Blixseth Group, Inc., and we changed the name to
- 14 Blix Group, Inc., yes.
- 15 Q. Okay. And I'll call it "Blix".
- 16 A. We just call it "BGI".
- 17 Q. BGI is a member of the debtor limited liability
- 18 companies?
- 19 A. I'm sorry, I don't understand your question.
- 20 Q. BGI owns a membership interest in the debtor limited
- 21 liability companies?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And by virtue of your ownership of BGI, you control the
- 24 debtor limited liability companies?
- 25 A. Correct.

- 1 | Q. And you've been -- you've had that control since last
- 2 August?
- 3 A. Correct.
- 4 Q. And until August, you didn't have information about the
- 5 operations of the Yellowstone Club?
- 6 A. No, I did not.
- 7 Q. And you had no information about the, the debts of the
- 8 Yellowstone Club?
- 9 A. Well, I had information prior to the two years I was
- 10 frozen out, but not during that time.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you have information as to the liquidity of
- 12 | the Yellowstone Club as of last August?
- 13 A. I started getting some information from members and
- 14 concerned employees and vendors in early spring of last
- 15 | year, tried to find a way to step back in to see what those
- 16 were. But other than that, I still didn't get anything
- 17 officially.
- 18 Q. Okay. And so it wasn't until you regained power, I'll
- 19 say, under your marital settlement agreement that you
- 20 understood the full scope and extent of BGI -- or, excuse
- 21 | me, of the Yellowstone Club's financial condition?
- 22 A. Correct.
- 23 Q. And that was three months ago in August?
- 24 A. Hm-hmm.
- 25 Q. Can you generally describe what BGI's -- or, I'm sorry,

- can you generally describe what the Yellowstone Club's
- 2 | financial condition was as of August when you stepped back
- 3 into control?
- 4 A. Well, there was purveyors not being paid, construction
- 5 | people not being paid, employees actually putting things
- 6 that Yellowstone Club needed on their own personal credit
- 7 | cards. It was more of a mess than I realized. I knew it
- 8 was kind of a mess going in, but it was -- actually,
- 9 CrossHarbor helped me quite a bit because they had been
- 10 doing due diligence for a purchase. And so I -- they were
- 11 able to help me get up to speed faster than I would have
- 12 been able to.
- 13 Q. Okay. Tell the Court, if you would, what CrossHarbor
- 14 is.
- 15 A. CrossHarbor is an entity that was going to purchase
- 16 Yellowstone Club, and the sale fell through in the spring
- of this last year. And they have been working for about a
- 18 | year and a half on due diligence and had done a really
- 19 in-depth job of going through the Yellowstone Club and the
- 20 expenses and the operating of it. And then when I -- then
- 21 they came to me, and then I came to them, and we kind of
- 22 shared information for the betterment of Yellowstone Club
- 23 to quickly get up to speed.
- 24 Q. Once you got back into control, what, what steps or
- 25 actions did you take in order to stabilize the financial

- 1 condition?
- 2 A. The first thing I did was try to market the Yellowstone
- 3 | Club World locations so that we could monetize those and
- 4 get those back into cash flow for Yellowstone Club which
- 5 | would have resolved the liquidity situation, actually. I
- 6 | met with Sam Byrne and CrossHarbor, and we resolved any
- 7 | issues that might have been left over and the collapse of
- 8 | the sale. We actually worked together closely with them,
- 9 actually put one of their people in as, as interim COO so
- 10 | that we could evaluate and more quickly get up to speed to
- 11 | see what we -- direction we needed to go.
- 12 Q. Did you invest any of your own funds into the
- 13 | Yellowstone Club?
- 14 A. Yes, I did.
- 15 Q. Approximately how much?
- 16 A. A little over \$16 million.
- 17 Q. Okay. And did your investment of your own funds
- 18 stabilize the finances?
- 19 A. No, it did not.
- 20 Q. And did that bring us to where we are today?
- 21 A. Partially.
- 22 | O. Okay. Are you able to invest more of your personal
- 23 | funds into the Yellowstone Club?
- 24 A. I am not.
- Q. Does the Yellowstone Club have the funds today, I'll

- 1 say, in order to pay for its day-to-day operations?
- 2 A. No, it does not.
- 3 Q. Absent the Court granting the motion that's before it
- 4 | right now, do you foresee the Yellowstone Club having the
- 5 | funds necessary to pay for its operations going forward?
- 6 A. No, I do not.
- 7 Q. Is there any substantial source of income or
- 8 contributions, or whatever, to bring money into the
- 9 Yellowstone Club to pay for its operations, any absence of
- 10 the Court approving an arrangement such as is before the
- 11 | Court today?
- 12 A. Not at this time. And I'm still diligently working on
- 13 trying to settle the Yellowstone Club World locations and
- 14 | those things, but the market turned on us so I'm still
- 15 | working on those things. But that's an option out there.
- 16 Q. Okay. Have you had negotiations with anyone in the
- 17 | last month to provide a loan in order to finance the
- 18 operations of the Yellowstone Club?
- 19 A. Yes, I have.
- Q. Who have you talked to?
- 21 A. Credit Suisse and CrossHarbor.
- 22 | Q. And have you been talking to them continually about
- 23 | financing for operations?
- 24 A. It feels like nonstop.
- 25 Q. Up through yesterday?

- 1 A. Yes.
- 2 Q. Okay. Did you advise at any time in the last two weeks
- 3 CrossHarbor that you were contemplating Yellowstone Club
- 4 filing for bankruptcy?
- 5 A. Oh, yes.
- 6 Q. Okay. And the same with Credit Suisse?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Okay. So for the past several weeks, both have known
- 9 of the pending -- impending bankruptcy filings?
- 10 A. Correct.
- 11 Q. Okay. And you have been discussing and negotiating
- 12 | with both arrangements for debtor-in-possession financing
- 13 for the past couple of weeks?
- 14 A. Yes, I have.
- 15 Q. Are you familiar with the terms and conditions of the
- 16 | proposed CrossHarbor debtor-in-possession financing?
- 17 A. Yes, I am.
- 18 Q. And you're familiar with the terms and conditions of
- 19 | the Credit Suisse debtor-in-possession financing?
- 20 A. Yes, I am.
- 21 Q. Did they differ? Did the --
- 22 A. Yes, they did.
- 23 Q. -- terms differ?
- 24 Was there a difference in the interest rate?
- 25 A. Yes, there was.

- 1 Q. Which of the two provided the better interest rate?
- 2 A. Credit Suisse.
- 3 Q. Did the CrossHarbor debtor-in-possession financing
- 4 | require getting a priming lien from the Court over the
- 5 | security interest and mortgages of Credit Suisse?
- 6 A. Yes, it did.
- 7 Q. Did you have conversations with Credit Suisse as to
- 8 whether it would oppose or accept a priming lien granted to
- 9 CrossHarbor?
- 10 A. Yes, I did.
- 11 Q. What was Credit Suisse's position with regard to a
- 12 CrossHarbor priming lien?
- 13 A. "Absolutely not."
- 14 Q. Okay. They would not agree to it?
- 15 A. They would not consider it.
- 16 Q. Okay. And did Credit Suisse advise you of the extent
- 17 | to which they would resist?
- 18 A. They were very clear.
- 19 Q. Very clear what?
- 20 A. Of their -- that, that they would resist that --
- 21 Q. Okay.
- 22 A. -- and fight that.
- 23 Q. What was the length of time that the CrossHarbor
- debtor-in-possession financing was to cover?
- 25 A. Thirteen weeks.

- 1 Q. And was there any condition about having a Chapter 11
- 2 | plan confirmed by a particular date?
- 3 A. Yes, there was.
- 4 Q. Do you remember what the date was?
- 5 A. February 13th, I believe.
- 6 Q. And do you remember what the consequence -- was there a
- 7 | consequence if the plan was not confirmed by that date?
- 8 A. Well, it would immediately go into -- I don't have
- 9 | bankruptcy terms down; I've just had a two-week crash
- 10 course here, so -- but it would immediately go into -- I
- 11 | think it's a 355 -- 3-something sale.
- 12 Q. A 363 sale?
- 13 A. It's a 363, there we go.
- 14 Q. Okay. So if a plan wasn't confirmed by February 13,
- 15 2009, then you would have to commit to a sale of the
- 16 | Yellowstone --
- 17 A. Immediately.
- 18 Q. Did the CrossHarbor debtor-in-possession financing get
- 19 you through the ski season?
- 20 A. No, it got through 13 weeks.
- 21 Q. Okay. Was there a discussion about continuing it
- 22 beyond 13 weeks with CrossHarbor?
- 23 A. With CrossHarbor funding it?
- 24 Q. Yes.
- 25 A. No. There was discussion, but --

- 1 Q. Would CrossHarbor agree to fund it for --
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Okay. Now, the Credit Suisse debtor-in-possession
- 4 | financing is for what time period?
- 5 A. This initial one is only for the -- to get us through
- 6 | the end of this month.
- 7 | Q. Okay. Does the Credit Suisse financing allow you to
- 8 ramp up for the ski season?
- 9 A. Yes, it does.
- 10 Q. What's the projected or predicted date of opening the
- 11 ski area?
- 12 A. December 12th or 16th.
- 13 Q. Okay. What's going to happen at the end of the three
- 14 | weeks with Credit Suisse?
- 15 A. You're asking for my prediction?
- 16 | Q. Well, do you have -- what do you contemplate will get
- 17 | the Yellowstone Club through the entire ski season?
- 18 A. Well, I contemplate that I'm taking Credit Suisse's
- 19 | word that the -- part of what they said was that if they
- 20 | would get us through this immediate -- so that we would be
- 21 prepared for ski season. And then they would sit down at
- 22 the table and have everybody involved that wanted to be
- 23 involved CrossHarbor, the members, anybody that had
- 24 | anything to offer to come up with a long-term plan for an
- 25 additional DIP loan.

- 1 Q. Okay, to carry it beyond the initial three-week period?
- 2 A. Oh, yes.
- Q. Okay. And with regard to sitting at the table, are
- 4 there any current plans for meetings with Credit Suisse to
- 5 start that process for arranging a debtor-in-possession
- 6 | financing after the end of the three-week period?
- 7 A. About 15 minutes after we leave this courtroom.
- 8 Q. There will be a meeting with Credit Suisse?
- 9 A. Yes.
- 10 Q. And anybody else?
- 11 A. I think CrossHarbor, I think members. I'm not sure who
- 12 else besides CrossHarbor and members and Discovery that
- will be there; but then we also have additional meetings
- 14 | that we are going to try to have tomorrow since people
- 15 traveled all this way here, as many as we can; and then
- 16 | scheduled meetings next week in New York where more members
- can be present, and Credit Suisse and CrossHarbor and
- 18 everybody is more locally involved there.
- 19 Q. Taking the two proposals and comparing them, the Credit
- 20 | Suisse proposal and the CrossHarbor proposal, did you make
- 21 | some determination as to which you felt was preferable?
- 22 A. I made a determination of what I felt was preferable
- 23 for today.
- Q. Okay. And what, what was that?
- 25 A. Credit Suisse.

- 1 O. Okay. And did you come to that conclusion in
- 2 | considering the various aspects and elements of both of the
- 3 | competing debtor-in-possession financing proposals?
- 4 A. It was going through the math of a logical business
- 5 decision based on what we thought would be the easiest
- 6 transition into the Chapter 11 to then have the time to sit
- 7 down and, and figure out which is the best for a long-term
- 8 DIP and not, maybe, have Credit Suisse object to anything
- 9 else we were trying to do so we had the time to actually
- 10 evaluate CrossHarbor's and the other things, including
- 11 Credit Suisse, to go forward in more of a business, logical
- 12 standpoint rather than rushing in 24 or 48 hours.
- 13 Q. And so did you exercise your business judgment and
- 14 decide to pursue the Credit Suisse proposal?
- 15 A. I felt that it was in the best interest of Yellowstone
- 16 Club and the safest route to protect everything, yes.
- 17 O. Thank you. Has Credit Suisse made any threats to you
- 18 | in order to get you to agree to go along with their
- 19 proposal?
- 20 A. No.
- 21 Q. Have they made any promises to you other than those
- 22 that are set out in the term sheet that has been submitted
- 23 to the Court?
- 24 A. Yes, they have.
- 25 0. What was that?

- 1 A. The promise to sit down at the table in good faith,
- 2 | with everybody involved, including the members and
- 3 | CrossHarbor and anyone else that I felt was -- would be
- 4 | somebody that would be an option for the best interest of
- 5 Yellowstone Club for the long term.
- 6 Q. And do you think that they are meeting that commitment
- 7 to sit down in good faith?
- 8 A. Absolutely. We've got it scheduled for right after.
- 9 And I also don't think that they would have put up the
- 10 | short-term DIP if they weren't planning on doing that.
- 11 Q. Okay. Did you negotiate with Credit Suisse at arm's
- 12 | length to derive the term sheet that is before the Court?
- 13 A. When you say "at arm's length" --
- 14 Q. Were you allowed an opportunity to comment on the
- 15 terms?
- 16 A. Oh, yes, absolutely.
- 17 Q. And to negotiate some of the terms?
- 18 A. Yes, absolutely.
- 19 Q. Has Credit Suisse treated you fairly in the course of
- 20 the negotiations?
- 21 A. Yes, they have.
- 22 | O. Has Credit Suisse been heavy-handed in any way in the
- 23 | course of the negotiations?
- 24 A. No.
- Q. Generally, you are aware of the terms of the Credit

- 1 Suisse DIP financing?
- 2 A. Yes, I am.
- 3 Q. Are you familiar with the budget that it's based upon?
- 4 A. Yes, I am.
- 5 Q. (Inaudible, talking over each other)?
- 6 A. Discovery and Yellowstone Club put the budget together,
- 7 so I'm very familiar.
- 8 Q. You've mentioned Discovery a couple of times. Can you
- 9 tell Judge Kirscher what Discovery is?
- 10 A. Oh, I'm sorry. Discovery is -- it's Discovery Land,
- 11 and they're a management -- they're actually owners of
- 12 other -- or other -- similar to Yellowstone Club, second to
- 13 none of managing private membership clubs. And I had
- 14 | promised the members to put in a third-party professional
- 15 management, and that was one of the first acts I did when
- 16 taking over.
- 17 Q. And so the budget that is before the Court and that
- 18 | will be funded under the DIP financing is based on the
- 19 | budget that the Yellowstone Club, in conjunction with
- 20 Discovery, put together?
- 21 A. Yes. And I have to say that CrossHarbor actually
- 22 helped with it as well because of their extensive knowledge
- 23 of the last year and a half and Discovery just coming in.
- 24 So with the senior management of Yellowstone Club, it was a
- 25 collaboration.

- 1 Q. Does that budget meet the immediate needs of the
- 2 Yellowstone Club?
- 3 A. The immediate needs.
- 4 Q. The necessary expenses for the next three weeks --
- 5 A. Yes, it does.
- 6 Q. -- in order to get the Yellowstone Club ramped up for
- 7 the ski season?
- 8 A. Correct.
- 9 Q. Do you understand that the DIP financing will provide
- 10 | Credit Suisse's agent with a first lien on the assets of
- 11 | the Yellowstone Club that are already collateralized to
- 12 | support the Credit Suisse lien?
- 13 A. I understand that the people putting up the money were
- 14 going to be primed before that.
- 15 Q. Okay. So it's priming itself, in effect, right?
- 16 A. Basically.
- 17 Q. Okay. And for those properties that are subject to
- 18 | third-party liens, do you understand that Credit Suisse
- 19 | will get a junior lien to the existing liens on those
- 20 properties?
- 21 A. Yes, I do.
- 22 | O. And do you understand that the Credit Suisse DIP
- 23 | financing will require the employment of a chief
- 24 restructuring officer?
- 25 A. Yes.

- 1 Q. And have you met the proposed chief restructuring
- 2 officer?
- 3 A. I have.
- 4 Q. Is that Mr. Greenspan --
- 5 A. Yes, it is.
- 6 Q. -- and his company?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. If the Court disallows the proposed Credit Suisse DIP
- 9 financing, what will happen to the Yellowstone Club in the
- 10 | immediate future?
- 11 A. We would not be able to continue operation.
- 12 Q. Does the Yellowstone Club have sufficient money to make
- 13 its next payroll?
- 14 A. No, it does not.
- 15 Q. Does it have the funds necessary to pay utilities?
- 16 A. No, it does not.
- 17 O. Does it --
- 18 THE COURT: When is the next payroll?
- 19 MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, the payroll was paid --
- THE WITNESS: Friday.
- 21 MR. PATTEN: -- Friday. And so the payroll lags
- 22 | 14 days, 10 days 14 days. So right now, there's about a
- 23 seven-day -- or at the time of filing on Monday, there was
- 24 about a seven-day back-payroll, if you will. And those
- 25 employees have been set out on Schedule E of the schedules.

- 1 Q. (By Mr. Patten) And let me ask you this, Ms. Blixseth:
- 2 Is it your intention to pay the employees for their
- 3 | prebankruptcy wages as part of this DIP financing?
- 4 A. I'm -- I understand under Montana law that we're not
- 5 allowed to do that.
- 6 Q. Okay. And is the same true for any other critical
- 7 | vendor that existed as of the date of filing?
- 8 A. That's what I've been -- understand Montana law is.
- 9 0. Okay.
- 10 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's bankruptcy law, it's
- 11 bankruptcy law.
- 12 THE WITNESS: Oh, is it?
- 13 Q. (By Mr. Patten) Will the Yellowstone Club shut down
- 14 and cease operations?
- 15 A. If we don't have the DIP?
- 16 O. Yes.
- 17 A. Yes.
- 18 Q. And if that happens, how will that affect the value of
- 19 the Yellowstone Club's assets?
- 20 A. Well, we won't have an operating enterprise to be able
- 21 | to sell the experience of what Yellowstone Club is, so
- 22 | we -- it shuts us down. I mean we have nothing to -- that
- 23 | we could sell. We wouldn't have employees to take care of
- 24 services, or vendors, or -- so --
- 25 Q. Would it have a devastating impact on the value of the

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1
     real estate?
 2
     A. Of course, yes.
     Q. And the membership -- unsold memberships would have no
 3
     value?
 4
     A. Not if we're not operating.
 5
 6
     Q. Would it jeopardize the ability, at least through a
 7
     plan, to pay the existing unsecured creditors?
 8
     A. Oh, absolutely.
                MR. PATTEN: Thank you, that's all I have.
 9
10
                THE WITNESS: Thank you.
11
                THE COURT: Who would like to cross-examine
     first?
12
13
                THE WITNESS: "First"?
                THE COURT: Well, I hate to say that, but there
14
15
     were a number of attorneys that -- (inaudible, talking over
     each other.)
16
17
                THE WITNESS: Okay.
18
                MR. ALTER: Your Honor, I don't know if anybody
19
     else intended to cross-examine the witness, so I don't mean
20
     to commandeer the podium first if there's others that
21
     wanted to cross-examine.
22
                MR. CHEHI: I can, I can go first if you would
23
     like, Your Honor. I just have a few short questions.
24
                Or you can, either way.
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MR. ALTER: I think, I think the attorney is

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going to be cross-examining towards the end of favoring the
DIP proposal, so I would assume that maybe -- that I should
wait until after you're concluded.
           Does that make sense, Your Honor?
           THE COURT: Absolutely. You may proceed.
           MR. CHEHI: Good afternoon, Your Honor. Mark
Chehi from Skadden-Arps for Credit Suisse.
                     CROSS-EXAMINATION
BY MR. CHEHI:
Q. And good afternoon, Ms. Blixseth. I'd like to ask you
a few questions.
    Do you personally owe any money to CrossHarbor?
Α.
    Yes, I do.
    And how much is that?
Ο.
    Thirty-five million.
Α.
    And what is the basis of their claims against you?
    In order to -- the financing that I had put together to
take out the MSA. Do I need to say "marital settlement
agreement?
    Because of the early markets kind of turning, the bank
that I had that was providing me with that funding wasn't
able to provide it in time. We felt that - CrossHarbor
felt, as well - that it was -- we needed to get this
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resolved. So they were kind enough to put together the

financing for me to be able to pay what I needed to pay to

- 1 get Tim's interest out of the Yellowstone Club and BGI, and
- 2 some additional things that needed to be paid in order for
- 3 Tim to be completely out of it. And so that's what they
- 4 did.
- 5 Q. Did they, did CrossHarbor advance funds to you that
- 6 you, in turn, used to finance the operations of the debtor?
- 7 A. No -- oh, you know, actually, that's not right. Part
- 8 of, part of the funds that they provided was --
- 9 \$4.4 million of that went into the Yellowstone Club,
- 10 directly into the operations of which I owe now
- 11 CrossHarbor. And part of those funds did pay a payment to
- 12 Credit Suisse.
- 13 Q. And is their claim against you secured in any manner?
- 14 A. It's secured, it's secured by some separate personal
- 15 | property not including anything to do with the Yellowstone
- 16 Club.
- 17 Q. Prior to the petition date, did CrossHarbor propose any
- 18 | transactions to you whereby CrossHarbor would become an
- 19 owner of the company of the debtors?
- 20 A. CrossHarbor and Yellowstone Club entered -- took a look
- 21 | at the picture, big picture of Yellowstone Club in the --
- 22 for the future. They put a great business plan together
- and, again, have more information than I did in the last
- 24 | two years. We ended up I don't know how to word this
- 25 | correctly making nice because there was some contentions

- 1 | because they didn't get the sale -- or the purchase of it.
- 2 And there were some, some areas that could have caused
- 3 concern for Yellowstone Club. Sam Byrne and I sat down
- 4 | with his team, my team, and we actually came up with a very
- 5 | good plan to have some joint ventures between Yellowstone
- 6 Club and CrossHarbor and make everything okay.
- 7 Q. Now, you've mentioned that CrossHarbor helped develop a
- 8 business plan for the club?
- 9 A. No. They shared with me the business plan that they
- 10 were going to use if they were the purchaser of the club.
- 11 And that was very helpful to me coming in, to give me
- 12 information that would have taken me months to come, to
- come up with, so -- (pause.)
- 14 Q. Did the proposed -- the transactions or transaction
- proposed by CrossHarbor involve Discovery Land Company?
- 16 A. No. I had been speaking with Discovery Land Company
- 17 | for well over a year when, when I wasn't sure who was going
- 18 to be trying to sell Yellowstone Club. I have been talk --
- 19 I know the Mike Meldman, the president of Discovery. We
- 20 | had been talking with him quite awhile. And I brought them
- 21 up when Sam and I were looking at doing some joint ventures
- 22 with the Yellowstone Club.
- 23 Sam had about three different people, management-type
- 24 on his list, if he were going to by Yellowstone Club.
- 25 Discovery was one of those. I told him that Discovery was

- 1 | my preference, and he asked me to talk to the other two
- 2 people that were his preference. We ended up not doing
- 3 that; we ended up negotiating with Discovery, and they came
- 4 on board as management.
- 5 Q. So in connection with your selection of Discovery as
- 6 the management of the, of the company, that was, in part, a
- 7 decision reached with the involvement of CrossHarbor?
- 8 A. Well, I thought CrossHarbor should be involved because
- 9 of the joint ventures we were going to be doing, because
- 10 Discovery wouldn't just be managing the operations and the
- 11 | F and B and the ski, and all of that; Discovery was going
- 12 to be managing the sales and marketing. So CrossHarbor,
- 13 with our joint venture, is doing to the vertical and doing
- 14 the extensive development that would be joined together.
- 15 It would only be prudent that they would be involved in
- 16 that, that decision.
- 17 Q. Did CrossHarbor's proposals of a transaction of some
- 18 | sort include a role for Discovery?
- 19 A. Not originally.
- 20 Q. What about most currently prior to the filing of these
- 21 cases?
- 22 A. Well, well before filing these cases. I mean it --
- 23 when I say "not originally", when they brought their idea
- 24 for some joint ventures that would be beneficial to both
- 25 Yellowstone Club and Discovery -- I mean, excuse me,

- 1 Yellowstone Club and CrossHarbor, Discovery wasn't part of
- 2 that. I'm the one that suggested Discovery and asked them
- 3 to consider that as the one and only rather than the other
- 4 two.
- 5 Q. But most recently in the past month or two, have your
- 6 discussions about a possible transaction with CrossHarbor
- 7 | included a Discovery participation in that transaction or
- 8 the -- on the other side of the transaction?
- 9 A. Well, Discovery is already part of it. So I'm not
- 10 clear on your question, because Discovery is already
- 11 | involved and is the manager of Yellowstone Club.
- 12 Q. Okay, very good. And for how long has Discovery been
- 13 managing the company?
- 14 A. Just shortly after we started working on the MOU,
- 15 within a couple of weeks of me taking over. And so just I
- think they started, actually, September 1.
- 17 Q. Of this, of this year?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. So just in the last few months?
- 20 A. Right after I took, right after I took over, yes.
- 21 Q. And the MOU you referred to is what?
- 22 A. Oh, sorry, I keep using initials. That's the agreement
- 23 | we put together prior to putting a full contract together
- 24 because we want -- we didn't want any lag time. And to try
- 25 to put a full contract together we thought was going to

- 1 take too long, so we started operating under an MOU.
- 2 Q. Has Discovery been paid any money to manage the
- 3 companies during this period since they became involved in
- 4 managing the companies?
- 5 A. Unfortunately, they have been on the list of not being
- 6 able to be paid, as well.
- 7 Q. Was there a promise reached to pay them anything in
- 8 | connection -- prior to the commencement of the cases? In
- 9 other words, do they have an outstanding claim at this
- 10 time?
- 11 A. Yes, they would.
- 12 Q. And what amount of claim is that?
- 13 A. I really don't know.
- 14 | Q. Why is that?
- 15 A. Because there's certain things that are based on
- 16 percentages of sales and certain things that are based on
- 17 | the people they had on the ground, and those kind of
- 18 | things. So there's -- now, now we're, we're just doing a
- 19 | fee base so we're going to be able to do that going
- 20 | forward. Because with the situation between the last two
- 21 | years of the divorce and the litigation and then this, we
- 22 can't really predict them to be able to be paid --
- 23 (inaudible.)
- 24 Q. So Discovery has been, been working for the last two
- 25 | months without any payment?

- 1 A. To the best of my knowledge.
- 2 Q. Now, you mentioned that CrossHarbor proposed a DIP
- 3 | financing to, to you?
- 4 A. Yes, they did.
- 5 Q. And I think you also mentioned that that financing
- 6 proposal included terms requiring a prompt sale of the
- 7 company.
- 8 A. At the end of 13 weeks.
- 9 Q. And what, what exact date would it be that they -- the
- 10 terms of the CrossHarbor DIP financing would require the
- 11 closing of such a sale?
- 12 A. I believe it was February 13th, somewhere in that --
- 13 (pause.)
- 14 Q. And you also testified that they required confirmation
- of a plan of reorganization by February 13th of 2009?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. So what you're saying is that a condition of their
- 18 debtor-in-possession financing was that the company either
- 19 confirm a plan by February 13th or consummate a sale of
- 20 | substantially all of its assets?
- 21 A. Consummate -- or I can't say "consummate", but
- 22 | immediately start a proceeding for sale of -- yes.
- MR. CHEHI: Those are the only questions I have,
- 24 Your Honor.
- 25 THE COURT: Thank you.

CROSS-EXAMINATION

2 BY MR. ALTER:

- 3 Q. Good afternoon, Ms. Blixseth.
- 4 A. Good afternoon.
- 5 Q. My name is Jonathan Alter, and I represent the ad hoc
- 6 group of members. I believe you are familiar with me. We
- 7 have spoken before.
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 0. Is that correct?
- 10 A. That's correct.
- 11 Q. Ms. Blixseth, you had testified briefly with respect to
- 12 when payroll was due. Can you clarify for me, so the
- 13 record is clear, when is the next payroll check due to the
- 14 employees?
- 15 A. I'm going to have to answer that in a, in a couple of
- 16 ways. We paid -- we scraped up enough money to pay them on
- 17 | Friday because of knowing that we couldn't pay once we
- 18 filed. Normally, they're paid every two weeks. Under
- 19 this, we're proposing in our budget that we pay them every
- 20 Friday so that, that there's no lag time, to try to help
- 21 | the employees not have any lag time in that. So if you
- 22 answer post or pre, it's different.
- 23 Q. So postpetition, the next payroll check is due this
- 24 Friday or the following Friday?
- 25 A. This Friday.

- 1 Q. This Friday. What other material amounts are coming
- 2 | due for the club in the next three business days?
- 3 A. The specifics are listed in the budget. We've got
- 4 | some (inaudible, static in microphone) some important
- 5 things for being in Montana with our weather turning to
- 6 | what we'd like it to be so that we have some, some very
- 7 | immediate needs that do have to do with utilities and that
- 8 kind of thing.
- 9 Q. How many members are there in the club?
- 10 A. Around 360-ish.
- 11 Q. Are members required to place a membership deposit with
- 12 the club?
- 13 A. Yes, they are.
- 14 Q. What is the amount of the membership deposit?
- 15 A. Currently, it's 300. It was 250.
- 16 Q. And is it fair to say that over the course of the life
- 17 of the club, the club has collected approximately
- 18 \$88 million in member deposits?
- 19 A. That would be pretty close.
- 20 Q. What about with respect to annual dues? Are annual
- 21 dues required of the members?
- 22 A. Yes, they are.
- 23 Q. What is the amount of the annual dues required of the
- 24 members?
- 25 A. You know, this is -- I think I'm going to say 16,000,

- 1 but I think it's 18,000 now. Somebody nodded out there.
- 2 | Because it went up while, while I was not involved the last
- 3 two years, so --
- 4 Q. Understood. And the collective amount of dues on
- 5 behalf of all the members on an annual basis is
- 6 approximately \$5 million a year?
- 7 A. Approximately.
- 8 Q. Thank you. What is the outstanding amount of the debt
- 9 owed to CSFB, as agent, for the prepetition lenders?
- 10 A. It's around 305 306 million.
- 11 | O. And you testified before that the value of the assets
- of the Yellowstone Club and its debtors were a certain
- amount, but what is the amount of the value of the
- 14 collateral that is held to secure the loan of the
- 15 | prepetition lenders? Is it the same amount?
- 16 A. It's the same amount, yes.
- 17 Q. And that amount was what, just to refresh your
- 18 recollection with the Court?
- 19 A. Seven hundred seventy-eight million.
- 20 Q. So the -- if I understand correctly, the club has
- 21 | received about \$5 million a year from membership dues,
- 22 approximately \$88 million in capital from membership
- deposits, and has received approximately \$375 million of
- 24 | funds through CSFB, as agent, over the course of the last
- 25 several years, correct?

- 1 THE COURT: Yes?
- 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: May I interpose one point,
- 3 Your Honor? It's not CSFB; it's just Credit Suisse.
- 4 MR. ALTER: Oh, I'm sorry, my apologies; Credit
- 5 Suisse.
- 6 THE WITNESS: Yes.
- 7 Q. (By Mr. Alter) And based upon the fact that you were,
- 8 as in your own words, frozen out, do you have any idea
- 9 where all that money went to?
- 10 A. To answer your specific question: All? No.
- 11 Q. Thank you. And during that period of time, CS was
- 12 | monitoring the outstanding loan that it provided to the, to
- 13 the debtors?
- 14 A. I assumed it was because prior to the two years, there
- 15 were certain regulations and things they had, audits and
- 16 those kind of things. So I assume that went on.
- 17 Q. Let's talk a little bit about the financing that CS has
- 18 offered. What is the amount of the financing? I'm not
- 19 certain I heard that number testified to.
- 20 A. 4.6.
- 21 | Q. Out of that \$4.6 million of financing, do you know how
- 22 | much of the money is going to the debtors and how much is
- 23 going to CS to provide the financing?
- 24 A. I believe, from my calculations, it's about 25 percent
- of that for Credit Suisse to get the CRO on board. And

- 1 there are legal fees and a lot of other expenses and fees
- 2 in there.
- 3 Q. Well, let's talk about that number, because it's a
- 4 rather large number. Do you recall the budget that you
- 5 testified to before in direct examination?
- 6 A. Yes.
- 7 Q. And you, you obviously reviewed the budget and
- 8 | considered the budget in selecting the appropriate
- 9 financing.
- 10 A. Yes.
- 11 Q. Do you understand that the amount of legal professional
- 12 | fees of the lender that is being asked to be paid pursuant
- 13 to this \$4 million, or so, DIP financing is \$742,600?
- 14 A. Yes.
- 15 | O. That's professional fees for whom?
- 16 A. Credit Suisse.
- 17 Q. With respect to the agent fee, what is the agent fee
- 18 that is required by virtue of this DIP financing?
- MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, let me object. If she's
- 20 going to be questioned about the line items on the budget,
- 21 | she ought to be provided a copy of it.
- 22 MR. ALTER: Oh, absolutely. I apologize. I
- 23 | thought she simply knew them. But I would be happy to
- 24 provide her with a copy.
- 25 THE WITNESS: I know the, I know the totals. But

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in the weeds of separating, I probably -- I don't want to
 1
 2
     give the wrong answer.
 3
                THE COURT: If you have a copy, you may approach
 4
     and present that to her.
                THE WITNESS: What size font is this going to be?
 5
                THE COURT: Would you like that marked as an
 6
 7
     exhibit?
 8
                MR. ALTER:
                            Sure. It's actually an exhibit to
     the pending motion before the Court, so it's already got --
 9
10
     it's a matter of public record. But if Your Honor thinks
11
     it's easier to mark it as an exhibit, I'm happy to do so.
                THE COURT: Let's mark it. That raises an issue.
12
13
     When we're talking about exhibits to motions, I expect all
     the exhibits to be presented at the time of hearing or
14
15
     trial.
16
                THE WITNESS: What size font is that that you're
17
     going to hand me? I might need my glasses.
18
                THE COURT: I'm going to mark this as Exhibit 1.
19
     It is the management cash weekly DIP budget, dated - with
20
     fax number - November 9, 2008.
21
                THE WITNESS: Let me look and see; I'll tell you.
22
     Oh, no, I can see it okay.
23
     O. (By Mr. Alter) Okay.
24
         Sorry. I thought at my age, I might need my glasses
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because I wasn't sure what size font it was.

- 1 Q. I didn't know whether I needed to fetch your glasses.
- 2 A. I can see this okay.
- 3 Q. All right. And I think we were talking about the
- 4 \$50,000 figure. Do you know what that \$50,000 figure is
- 5 | that is contained on the budget?
- 6 A. I need to -- where, where I'm looking here.
- 7 Q. What I'm --
- 8 A. Sorry, I'm --
- 9 Q. You're fine. What I'm drawing your attention to is the
- 10 varies fees that are associated -- (inaudible, talking over
- 11 each other) --
- 12 A. I got you. Got it, hm-hmm.
- 13 Q. -- proposed DIP loan.
- 14 What is your understanding of the \$50,000 figure that's
- 15 | contained within the budget?
- 16 A. To be honest with you, we Yellowstone Club and
- 17 Discovery put the budget together, presented it to Credit
- 18 | Suisse, and Credit Suisse came back and told us the numbers
- 19 | that they would require in order to be able to do the DIP
- 20 loan and what their fees and costs would be. And we simply
- 21 | plugged them in.
- 22 Q. With respect to the DIP loan interest and fees, what is
- 23 your understanding of the amount of DIP loan interest and
- 24 | fees during the supposed three life -- three-week life of
- 25 | the DIP facility?

- 1 A. Two hundred and -- it's either thirty-eight or
- 2 seventy-eight.
- 3 Q. It wasn't meant to be an eye test.
- 4 With respect to the trustee fees, obviously we
- 5 understand what those are for the U.S. Trustee's Office;
- 6 and court fees.
- 7 The following line is estimated CRO fees. What is your
- 8 understanding of the estimated CRO fees, chief
- 9 restructuring fees, through the life of this DIP facility?
- 10 A. One hundred fifty thousand a month.
- 11 Q. And so we are clear, the DIP facility terminates in no
- 12 more than three weeks, correct?
- 13 A. If this one doesn't go forward, yes.
- 14 O. No. If, if --
- 15 A. This one, yes.
- 16 Q. This DIP facility, if approved, terminates in no more
- 17 than three weeks?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. In fact, there are conditions in the DIP that may, may
- 20 result in the DIP being terminated earlier than three
- 21 | weeks, based upon defaults and the like.
- 22 A. I think that would be in any DIP loan. So there could
- 23 be defaults, yes, but -- (pause.)
- 24 Q. What is your understanding of the interest rate for the
- 25 DIP?

- 1 A. I believe it was 15 percent.
- 2 Q. And what was your understanding of the -- and what is
- 3 your understanding of the interest rate that was called for
- 4 by the DIP proposed by CrossHarbor?
- 5 A. Seventeen percent.
- 6 Q. So it was simply 2 percent more?
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. Now, you testified a bit about the fact that the
- 9 CrossHarbor DIP was a priming lien, it required a priming
- 10 lien. Do you remember that discussion?
- 11 A. Yes, I do.
- 12 Q. Okay. Is it your understanding that the CS DIP also
- 13 requires a priming lien over lenders that did not agree to
- 14 participate in this DIP?
- 15 A. I was not aware of that. It's been mentioned to me
- 16 today, but I was not aware of that.
- 17 Q. Okay. Do you have any basis for your, for your
- 18 understanding and I believe it's your understanding -
- 19 that there has been consent from all lenders to the
- 20 | prepetition -- all prepetition lenders to this DIP, to the
- 21 priming?
- 22 A. I have, I have information that Credit Suisse has done
- 23 it. I don't -- I have not had conversations with all the
- 24 bondholders.
- Q. You testified that it was important to you that CS had

- 1 agreed to negotiate. Do you recall that testimony?
- 2 A. Yes, I do.
- 3 Q. Did CS indicate to you that they refused to negotiate
- 4 | in the event that you did not agree to do their DIP?
- 5 A. They indicated to me that they would, would prefer they
- 6 did -- I did their DIP in order to have time to do a more
- 7 | in-depth evaluation of what, what we needed going forward.
- 8 If they -- I hope that answered.
- 9 Q. So is it, is it fair to say that the purpose of this
- 10 DIP, perhaps, from CS's standpoint, as far as you
- 11 understood it, was to allow a three-week due diligence
- 12 period to understand whether they would provide further
- 13 funding?
- 14 A. Not only, not only that -- yes, that is part of my
- 15 understanding. But not only that, but to -- they knew that
- 16 I was strongly in favor of the Credit -- CrossHarbor DIP.
- 17 And so it was, it was their offer to let the CrossHarbor
- 18 people come to the table and explain what their DIP was,
- 19 let the members come to the table and explain a little more
- 20 | in depth of actually what Yellowstone Club is, and that
- 21 | kind of thing.
- 22 | O. And at some point -- you just testified that at some
- 23 point, you were strongly in favor of the CrossHarbor DIP.
- 24 Was it material to you CS told you that they would fight
- 25 vigorously to oppose any priming lien against their, their

- 1 claim?
- 2 A. That definitely was on my mind.
- 3 Q. Yet the existing loan actually results in a priming
- 4 lien over nonparticipating lenders in their own facility?
- 5 A. Yeah. And I was not aware of that.
- 6 Q. The existing DIP order provides a release by the
- 7 debtors of CS. Are you aware of that?
- 8 A. Yes.
- 9 Q. What analysis was performed by the debtors in
- 10 connection with determining that it was appropriate to
- 11 release CS at this point in time?
- 12 A. It felt like the best option for expediting what we
- 13 needed to do in an emergency situation.
- 14 Q. Was there any claims that you are aware of that was
- 15 | released in connection with the release language in the
- 16 documents?
- 17 A. No.
- 18 O. Was any analysis performed to reach that conclusion?
- 19 A. We read the, we read the DIP terms, and we went back
- and forth on a few things and basically did an analysis,
- 21 yes.
- 22 | Q. So is it fair to say that that was a condition to the
- 23 DIP financing that they needed to be released from any
- 24 claims against them, both prepetition and postpetition?
- 25 A. It was definitely one of their terms.

- 1 Q. What other potential lenders were solicited for
- 2 financing of the bankrupt debtors?
- 3 A. Besides Credit Suisse -- I mean besides CrossHarbor?
- 4 | O. Besides the two entities that are before the Court at
- 5 this point in time, the ones that have been discussed by
- 6 | the Court -- with the Court, CrossHarbor and CS.
- 7 A. We didn't -- none others. The market was not in a
- 8 position where we felt that we had a -- unless somebody had
- 9 real insight or kind of a skin in the game already, we
- 10 didn't think we had any options for that.
- 11 | O. There's been some discussion of the fact that, that it
- 12 was a negative on the CrossHarbor DIP that come mid
- 13 February, that there would be a requirement of the sale.
- 14 Do you recall that testimony?
- 15 A. Yes, I do.
- 16 Q. What is your understanding of what could potentially
- 17 | happen to this debtor in three weeks if CS does not agree
- 18 to further -- a further DIP and there is no further
- 19 | financing? What would happen to the debtor at that time
- 20 | without financing?
- 21 A. Well, I -- I hate to answer it the way I'm going to
- 22 | answer it, but I wouldn't let that happen because I would,
- 23 I would -- CrossHarbor has a DIP that they're offering to
- 24 do, and I would bring that to the Court.
- 25 | Q. But CrossHarbor has a DIP that it suggested doing at

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this point in time. There was no assurance in three weeks that either Credit Suisse or CrossHarbor will be available to provide further long-term financing for this debtor. isn't it the case that in three weeks, there could be a sale? A. That could always be an option. But to finish the, the -- my answer is that a lot can be done in three weeks with people that care about Yellowstone Club the way they do and are committed to it. Credit Suisse is obviously putting up money that they wouldn't put up. CrossHarbor is not walking away saying that they wouldn't still come back with their DIP. So I feel very confident in the next few weeks we'll have that additional DIP financing. Q. And with respect to the impending discussions with Credit Suisse, do you have any agreement whatsoever that they will agree to provide any further funding other than the funding that's set forth in this interim order? A. No, I do not. MR. ALTER: I have nothing further, Your Honor. CROSS-EXAMINATION UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: O. Ms. Blixseth, since Counsel delved into a few of the details of the CrossHarbor DIP, at least, let me ask you: Was it your understanding that the CrossHarbor DIP proposal was accompanied by any budget?

- 1 A. Oh, yes, it was accompanied by a budget.
- 2 Q. Was there one attached to the term sheet that
- 3 | CrossHarbor proposed?
- 4 A. Oh, yes.
- 5 Q. And which budget was that?
- 6 A. It was a 13-week budget that, that Discovery and
- 7 Yellowstone Club put together.
- 8 Q. And what was the initial amount of funding under the
- 9 CrossHarbor DIP financing proposal that would be made
- 10 available to the company?
- 11 A. Eighteen million dollars.
- 12 Q. Is it your understanding or not that the initial
- 13 | funding was a \$5 million increment?
- 14 A. It could have been. It could come in that. There was
- 15 | some, there was some structure in there for submitting the
- 16 budget, showing variances if we had any variances from the
- 17 | budget. But it would fall under the same things we'd have
- 18 to do under bankruptcy anyway, so it wasn't, it wasn't an
- 19 issue in my mind.
- 20 Q. Are you saying that you don't recall whether or not the
- 21 | CrossHarbor DIP included an initial advance of \$5 million
- 22 | for -- a \$5 million funding of the budget rather than the
- 23 | entire full \$18 million amount?
- 24 A. I do recall, and I do recall that it was in increments
- 25 based on the budget. And we would, we would -- they had an

- 1 instrument put that they would have -- as, as we went along
- 2 for the weeks, we would request the funds. We would show
- 3 that that's the -- where all the money was being used in
- 4 | the budget, much the same we're going to have to for the
- 5 bankruptcy; and they would grant those funds in increments.
- 6 But the overall DIP was 18 million.
- 7 Q. And do you recall that there was an original issued
- 8 discount feature of the DIP proposal?
- 9 A. Can you be more specific?
- 10 Q. Do you recall that there was an amount approximating
- 11 | \$538,000 that was attributable or equivalent to a 3 percent
- 12 | fee payable to CrossHarbor on account of its DIP financing
- 13 proposal?
- 14 A. I have to be honest with you: There's been so many
- 15 | proposals and so many drafts, I don't -- I can't honestly
- 16 answer that one.
- 17 Q. Okay. Is it your understanding that the release of
- 18 | Credit Suisse that's provided by the debtors would not be
- 19 | binding upon a creditors committee or other creditors but
- 20 | would apply only to the debtors themselves as borrowers?
- 21 A. Yes.
- 22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.
- THE COURT: Mr. Patten.
- MR. PATTEN: (Inaudible, out of range of
- 25 | microphone) -- Your Honor. I don't know if there's anybody

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1
     else that wants to go.
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                MR. BUTLER: Actually, Your Honor -- (inaudible,
 3
     our of range of microphone.)
 4
                THE COURT: Oh, Mr. Butler -- oh, before we
     proceed, Mr. Alter, did you wish to offer Exhibit 1?
 5
 6
                MR. ALTER: Your Honor, yes, I will offer
 7
     Exhibit 1. But, again, I note for the record that it is,
 8
     it is part of the motion that is -- that has been submitted
     to the Court. And it's also an exhibit to the interim
 9
     order upon which the, the proposed financing is based.
10
11
     But, yes, I will ask that that be introduced as Exhibit 1.
12
                THE COURT: Any objection?
13
                MR. PATTEN: No objection.
14
                THE COURT: Exhibit 1 is admitted.
15
                MR. ALTER: Thank you, Your Honor.
                 EXHIBIT NO. 1 ADMITTED INTO EVIDENCE
16
                THE COURT: Mr. Butler.
17
18
                MR. BUTLER: Yes, Your Honor. And, again, my
19
     application for pro hac is pending before the Court.
20
                          CROSS-EXAMINATION
21
     BY MR. BUTLER:
22
     O. Yes, ma'am, my name is Lynn Butler. I represent the
23
     Montana Department of Revenue. I have three quick areas
24
     I'd like to ask you about.
25
         In your understanding of the facility that's before the
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- 1 | Court, are you aware that there's a carve-out provision for
- 2 | certain payments? Are you aware of that at all?
- 3 A. A carve-out for certain payments, or --
- 4 Q. Payments to your, your attorneys, the debtor attorneys,
- 5 and payments to the U.S. Trustee's Office. Are you aware
- 6 of --
- 7 A. Yes, I am.
- 8 Q. Is it your understanding that the case will not go
- 9 | forward if that carve-out is not in place?
- 10 A. The case will not go forward --
- 11 Q. Yes.
- 12 A. -- or the DIP loan would not --
- 13 Q. The DIP loan, let's start there.
- 14 A. The DIP loan, yes.
- 15 Q. So it's the lender's requirement that there's a
- 16 carve-out for the debtor attorney in the U.S. Trustee's
- 17 Office?
- 18 A. That's correct.
- 19 Q. Okay. And as Counsel asked earlier, there is a large
- 20 amount of releases and stipulations that the debtor is
- 21 | making as regard to Credit Suisse within the motion.
- 22 You're familiar with those?
- 23 A. Yes, I am.
- 24 Q. Do you know of any investigation that has been made as
- 25 to the past activity of Credit Suisse as it relates to the

- 1 debtor?
- 2 A. No.
- 3 Q. Thank you. And, lastly, you said the payroll -- the
- 4 monthly payroll budget's about \$600,000?
- 5 A. Hm-hmm.
- 6 Q. Which one's the employer entity out of the four, do you
- 7 know?
- 8 A. YMC.
- 9 Q. YMC. And on the budget, it wasn't clear. It showed
- 10 payroll and it showed payroll expenses. Are the
- 11 postpetition payroll withholding taxes part of the, part of
- 12 the items to be paid?
- 13 A. Yes, they are.
- 14 Q. And who's responsible for making payments of the wages
- 15 and taxes?
- 16 A. Yellowstone Club will be, under the direction of
- 17 whoever has the DIP in the court right now.
- 18 Q. Okay, thank you very much.
- 19 A. Hm-hmm.
- MR. BUTLER: That's all, Your Honor.
- 21 THE COURT: Thank you. Mr. Patten -- oh,
- 22 Mr. Cuffe.
- 23 MR. CUFFE: Your Honor, I have three quick
- 24 questions.
- THE COURT: Okay.

- 1 MR. CUFFE: Well, at least I hope they're quick.
- 2 CROSS-EXAMINATION
- 3 BY MR. CUFFE:
- 4 | Q. Ma'am, my name is Matt Cuffe. I think I've seen you in
- 5 Virginia City a couple of times.
- 6 A. Yeah.
- 7 Q. I represent Mike Snow. Three quick questions for you.
- 8 You mentioned earlier that there was ongoing litigation
- 9 during the divorce and all of those things. Do you
- 10 remember that?
- 11 A. I do.
- 12 Q. And you were personally sued in that litigation,
- 13 weren't you?
- 14 A. I was.
- 15 Q. And some of the allegations in that complaint related
- 16 to the use of proceeds from the prepetition loan from CS,
- 17 | didn't they?
- 18 A. Correct.
- 19 Q. And those allegations included that you personally
- 20 benefitted from those loan proceeds improperly, correct?
- 21 A. They, they had -- it was put in there as Tim Blixseth
- 22 and Edra Blixseth, so, yes, I was part of that.
- 23 Q. Right. And there's been allegations that a CD in your
- 24 | name for in excess of \$1 million was funded with those
- 25 proceeds, correct?

- 1 I'm, I'm not familiar with that. 2 You don't recall that? 3 A. No. 4 MR. CUFFE: Okay, that's all I have. THE WITNESS: In my name? 5 6 Q. (By Mr. Cuffe) Yes, ma'am. 7 THE COURT: You only have to answer --8 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 10 THE WITNESS: I can't ask back?
- 11 THE COURT: You can't ask back. This is not a --

THE COURT: -- questions that have been asked.

- 12 THE WITNESS: Sorry.
- THE COURT: You can do that during the
- 14 negotiations.

- 15 THE WITNESS: Okay.
- 16 REDIRECT EXAMINATION
- 17 BY MR. PATTEN:
- 18 Q. Ms. Blixseth, was CrossHarbor willing to commit to any
- 19 DIP financing beyond this 13-week period?
- 20 A. Not at the time we were negotiating.
- 21 Q. Did you request them to commit beyond the 13-week
- 22 period?
- 23 A. Yes, I did.
- 24 Q. And they refused?
- 25 A. They would not commit to anything past the 13 weeks.

- 1 Q. Are you familiar, in general, with the condition of the
- 2 financial markets?
- 3 A. I am too familiar.
- 4 Q. Okay. And based on your familiarity, is that -- you
- 5 | focused your attention on CrossHarbor and Credit Suisse DIP
- 6 financing --
- 7 A. Correct.
- 8 Q. -- and not some other potential source of financing?
- 9 A. I didn't feel in this market that unless somebody else
- 10 was abundantly familiar with the Yellowstone Club or had
- 11 | some already, like I said, skin in the game, that we could
- 12 get any other financing.
- 13 Q. Do you believe that you have -- strike that.
- 14 Mr. Alter asked you about the payment of membership
- 15 dues?
- 16 A. Correct.
- 17 Q. Are those dues paid at a certain time during the year?
- 18 A. Yes. In fact, the -- part of the dues will be coming
- 19 up to be paid in December.
- 20 Q. What, what percentage of the dues will be due in
- 21 December?
- 22 A. Half.
- Q. Okay. And the other half is due when?
- 24 A. Sometime in the summer.
- 25 Q. Okay. So the approximate \$5 million in dues aren't

- 1 available to the Yellowstone Club today?
- 2 A. No, they're not.
- 3 Q. They won't be available next week or the week after?
- 4 A. No, they will not.
- 5 Q. And, at best, half of them will be received sometime in
- 6 December?
- 7 A. Well, they will be if the members think that the club
- 8 is going to be open and available to them.
- 9 Q. But that's not money that Yellowstone Club has
- 10 available to fund its operations for the next three weeks?
- 11 A. No, it's not.
- 12 Q. Now, do you understand, with respect to the CrossHarbor
- 13 proposal, whether the 363 sale was to be held in
- 14 February or was to -- the process was to start in February?
- 15 A. It was my understanding that, that it started
- 16 | immediately on that date. So, so one could not logically
- 17 | think that you wouldn't have to start marketing prior to
- 18 | that in order to, to effect a sale right after that date.
- 19 Q. Okay. And CrossHarbor --
- 20 A. (Inaudible, talking over each other) -- concern.
- 21 Q. -- CrossHarbor was not committing to provide any
- 22 | financing for any time after the February 13th, correct?
- 23 A. No, they were not.
- 24 Q. So everything would have to shut down in the middle of
- 25 the ski season before the sale. Is that the timing on the

- 1 CrossHarbor proposal?
- 2 A. Yes.
- 3 Q. Thank you. You're familiar with the release language
- 4 Mr. Alter asked you about in the Credit Suisse --
- 5 A. Yes, I am.
- 6 Q. That Credit Suisse has released?
- 7 A. Yes.
- 8 Q. And does that -- to your understanding, does that
- 9 affect anybody other than the debtors in this case?
- 10 A. No.
- 11 Q. Okay. So trustees, anyone else can continue?
- 12 Creditors can assert whatever claims there may exist?
- 13 A. It's my understanding it only affects me.
- 14 MR. PATTEN: Okay, that's all. Thanks.
- THE COURT: You know, Mr. Patten, could I have
- 16 you just -- or maybe you can just answer it, or maybe some
- 17 | questioning. I just want to clarify: When we speak of
- 18 | "Yellowstone Club", are we just collectively talking about
- 19 all four entities?
- 20 MR. PATTEN: Yes, Your Honor.
- THE COURT: Okay.
- MR. PATTEN: And I should ask Ms. Blixseth.
- 23 Q. (By Mr. Patten) When, when you've been testifying
- 24 | about "Yellowstone", you're talking about the four entities
- 25 that are in bankruptcy right now?

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A. And that's why I've been using the word the "Yellowstones", because I was doing everything; so, yeah. MR. PATTEN: Okay, thank you. THE COURT: You may step down. THE WITNESS: Thank you. THE COURT: Next witness? MR. PATTEN: And I have no further witnesses, Your Honor. I guess I have a few questions, and THE COURT: maybe they go to the attorneys as well as to anyone. in here in the proposed -- now, and I don't know that I've got the latest version of the interim order because there were a flood of interim orders that were floating through the, the cyberspace. And so I have one that I was reviewing that had been filed either yesterday or the day before which probably has, has some changes. But to be quite honest, I was uncertain when I started opening up the versions which was, which was the most current and which one were you going to be proposing and submitting to me. So my questions are going to be based upon an earlier version. MR. PATTEN: Okay. THE COURT: But in here on page 6 of the version I'm looking at, there's a reference that's -- and these are findings of fact that I'm making, that the terms of the DIP

term sheet and use of cash collateral were for fair and reasonable. I don't know if I've had any testimony that allows me to make that finding. I mean because here's my point going to the budget: How is this -- and let me preface it with another question.

Does the lender anticipate filing an application for these fees, professional fees of 742.6 -- (inaudible, talking over each other)?

MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, it's my, my position that any professional fees, whether they're occurred by the, by the lender or any other creditor as well as the debtor, have to submit their fees to this Court for approval.

THE COURT: Well, that certainly would be my understanding, but I wanted to know what their attorneys are contemplating here. Because then I -- that paragraph really troubles me because you're suggesting to me that by approving this interim agreement, that I'm concluding that the terms of the term sheet and use of cash collateral were for fair and reasonable. I don't know that yet because I don't know that these fees are reasonable.

MR. CHEHI: Your Honor, the -- let me explain as best I can. And we can also -- there's a financial advisor that we have retained who also could be qualified today as an expert to speak to Your Honor about the status of terms

of debtor-in-possession financing that are available in the market today to the extent it's available. And he would be prepared to testify as to the interest rate and the other terms and give Your Honor a view of those issues.

But I need to correct the record, and I can do that based upon the papers as opposed to the, you know, the questioning of the witness who is, you know, a lay witness. The alleged, you know, \$700,000-some of fees that allegedly are coming to Credit Suisse is a, is a gross overestimate. What we have, Your Honor, in the first instance is a requirement that the debtors engage a CRO, a chief restructuring officer; in other words, someone who has competence in financially restructured companies, managing these situations, and who is an independent third party. That was a requirement that we discussed with the borrowers from Day 1, and it was a -- put that inside the term sheet. But it's not a CRO that's being retained by or selected by Credit Suisse. And so the \$150,000 cost of that is a cost of providing independent management to the debtor's estate.

THE COURT: But we haven't seen any employment application at this point for such a person, right?

MR. CHEHI: No. But we understand that the debtors have selected a Mr. Ron Greenspan from a firm called "FTI", which is an advisory firm. And he is well-qualified in real estate and troubled-company workouts

and restructurings and bankruptcy reorganizations. He is the person, as we have been told - and we haven't, you know, talked to him directly about this - is going to be engaged or is already engaged to assist the debtors' management in working through the difficult bankruptcy issues that they're confronting at this time.

And, you know, that's very important to us, Your Honor, because the circumstances in this case are -- call out for some great concern about the debtor's current management. Its management since at least September 1st, as the witness testified --

THE COURT: This is Discovery?

MR. CHEHI: Well, Discovery Land Company and CrossHarbor, Your Honor, are both, on information and belief, given our conversations with CrossHarbor's bankruptcy counsel a couple weeks ago -- and, you know, various documents that were provided to us outlying proposed transactions between the debtors prepetition and CrossHarbor included, again, a change in control of the company to CrossHarbor, and it involved a participation in some manner or another as a principal and not simply as a management company of Discovery.

And upon information and belief, Your Honor, we believe that these companies have effectively been managed by and run by CrossHarbor directly and indirectly through

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Discovery for CrossHarbor's self-interested benefit in
connection with a transaction that has admittedly been
under discussion for some months and which was admittedly
discussed with all the other parties, including us, Your
Honor, prior to the filing of the petition.
          Further, upon information and belief, and I don't
think it's inconsistent with the witness's testimony --
          THE COURT: Just a moment. Mr. Alter.
          MR. ALTER: Your Honor, my point was simply going
to be that this has crossed so far over the line of what is
appropriate argument in connection with an evidentiary
component of a hearing. If there's a witness that can
testify to -- (inaudible, talking over each other.)
          THE COURT: Well, anything that, anything that's
argument is not evidence.
          MR. ALTER: And I think that's the point. We're
getting a lot of "upon information and belief" that I
haven't -- I hear no witnesses testifying to, and I have no
basis to know that this is true at all.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And are you representing
CrossHarbor?
          MR. ALTER: I am not, Your Honor. I am not, Your
Honor.
          THE COURT: He's not the "Honor"; I am.
          MR. ALTER: I know, but I -- Counsel. But I
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1 think the judge asked me a question, so I was responding. 2 I mean I view this strictly at this THE COURT: point as argument, which I'm not going to take as evidence. 3 4 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's understood, Your Honor. And I'm not, I'm not testifying. All I can do 5 is tell you what we've heard here today and what is of 6 7 record and what would very clearly become of record in any 8 further scrutiny of the relationships, the prepetition relationships between the party. And this goes back to the 9 10 need for an independent third-party expert manager to come 11 in and to ensure the proper oversight internally of these 12 companies, to act as an independent fiduciary in connection 13 with the existing equity owner of the company and its 14 existing management structure. 15 Well, but let's get back to the fees THE COURT: and what I'm, I'm finding is fair and reasonable here when 16 17 I don't know if they are. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, the \$150,000 should 18 come out of that equation, Your Honor. The balance of the 19 20 fees, a component of those consists of \$200,000 in the 21 aggregate of an agent fee and an arrangement fee. 22 THE COURT: That's the lender fee? This is the 23 -- (inaudible, talking over each other.) 24 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: These are, these are, 25 these are -- no. Those are fees that have been grouped in

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the budget under the term "lender fees", but they include the estimated costs, legal and financial advisory fees of the lenders for the -- this three-week period, including the costs and expenses of our firm; the costs and expenses of our financial advisor, Laughlin Mangies (phonetic) who's representing the lenders in this, so that we can spend an intensive period of time over the next three weeks engaging in workout discussions with this -- these borrowers and with all the other parties in interest, including -- as the witness said, and I agree with her, that we are going to be talking to the homeowners, we're going to be talking to CrossHarbor, we're going to be talking to all the stakeholders over the coming weeks and hopefully preparing additional documentation to allow this matter to proceed in an orderly manner. THE COURT: For which applications are all going to be made -- (inaudible, talking over each other.) UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Applications will be made. We understand and I understand from your local rules, Your Honor - and I don't quibble with those - that any fees and expenses of a secured creditor are --THE COURT: Oversecured creditor. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: -- oversecured creditor have to be approved as being reasonable. And we're happy to subject our fees to a reasonableness test. And we'll

submit, you know -- and I'm not sure whether we'll be submitting the equivalent of bankruptcy fee applications to Your Honor, but we will be giving you, you know, clear visibility of the amounts spent, what the functions were, how much time was spent both by, by my firm, the other attorneys, the local counsel representing Credit Suisse's agent, as well as the financial advisor that's been engaged on behalf of the agent to advise the agent and the lenders to make this possible.

So that -- the reasonableness component of that,

So that -- the reasonableness component of that, of those fees, are going to be subject to Your Honor's, you know, oversight within reason. And, again, I think the standard will be something probably less than a bankruptcy fee application for a debtor's counsel or committee counsel, but we're --

THE COURT: They use the same form.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We'll use the same form.

THE COURT: You know, anyway, that's why I'm troubled with the language that I'm finding -- making a finding of fair and reasonable when I've had -- at least as it relates to some items on this budget and in the term sheet may not be deemed fair and reasonable.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, we can add language to that order, Your Honor, you know, subject to a review, a reasonableness review of the, you know, the legal fees and

advisory costs for which the lenders seek reimbursement from, from the, from the company. We expect to be spending a lot of time at this over the next three weeks, Your Honor, and we've spent a lot of time at it to date.

THE COURT: See, I'm concerned because -- I'm really concerned with like this three-month -- or "three-month". We wish it was three-month interim financing; but three-week interim financing, because when we get to the end of November, I'm real concerned as to where we're going to be.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We may be nowhere, Your Honor, unless there's an ability to repay or a prospect for repayment of the various debt on this company and all of the other, you know, obligations that are being incurred.

What we're offering, Your Honor, is a short-term financing to allow the parties to sort out those issues and perhaps larger possibilities for a transactional solution here, which clearly went in the air with CrossHarbor. And they've been mining that and pushing that on a prepetition basis. But now we're in a new world here, and we're going to have to take into account all of the interests. We have to make sure there's, you know, some visibility to this and there's proper disclosures.

And we're giving everybody an opportunity to have those accelerated, detailed discussions over three weeks

without any prospect that at the end of three weeks this \$4.4 million or \$4.5 million that we're committed to fund in is going to be repaid at the end of that three weeks.

That is a risk. And that goes to the issue of: Is this a fair and reasonable, you know, interest rate? Are the agent fees that are being charged fair and reasonable under the circumstances?

You know, we'll be able to put on testimony from a financial advisor. I have documents that the Court can take judicial notice of from other recent bankruptcy cases showing that these types of terms are -- I won't call them "customary" now because there's nothing customary in this market. These are the minimum terms that people are willing to provide financing on. And, frankly, Your Honor, the lenders were hoping to be getting actually higher interest rates, and the like, because you can't get money in the market right now for a DIP financing in any scenario. And you can read that in the Wall Street Journal or you can listen CNBC every night, and you'll know what the problem is.

THE COURT: All things have changed over the last couple of years.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And they've changed dramatically over the last month, and it's gotten worse.

And we're prepared to give you a record on that if you need

it so that these types of arrangements that we're talking about are not obscene, they're not unfair, especially since, at the end of three weeks or four weeks, or whenever it might be, if the music does come to a stop, there's nobody going to be writing a check to these lenders to pay them off immediately. There's no way to monetize this credit, either the prepetition credit or the DIP facility credit, in lieu of some sort of sale of collateral, perhaps.

And Your Honor must know that there's no real-estate sales activity on any level, much less for, you know, high-valued, you know, real estate such as this. So these lenders are taking an incredible risk. But they have to weigh that against the prospects of an utter train wreck, Your Honor, where we were notified approximately two weeks ago that, all of a sudden, the equity owner can no longer infuse any more money into this company, they're unable to make payroll, they're unable to pay trust fund taxes, they're going to file bankruptcy in two days.

And we had conversations with CrossHarbor. And I'm not going to get into all the conversations, but their attorneys were involved. They were -- their attorneys were preparing bankruptcy papers for these companies before Mr. Patten was even retained. And so we had people who were very self-interested in a process towards a

transaction that they had in mind. They were, in effect, managing this company. And that's on information and belief, and we can make a record on that, but let's not quibble over all the details. And at the end of the day, they stopped funding these companies by refusing to fund any more money to Ms. Blixseth so that she could, in turn, fund the operating expenses. She admitted they were doing that.

And they held -- they hold a \$35 million secured claim over her head; and with that, they were proposing debtor-in-possession financing with some very harsh triggers for a plan of reorganization to be confirmed.

Very unrealistic things, Your Honor.

THE COURT: Well, what about -- there's references in this order about findings of adequate protection provided here, and is reasonable and sufficient for -- protect the interests of the prepetition agent and prepetition lenders.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Those are the junior liens that people have not objected to. You know, a majority of the, of the prepetition lender group has, has -- on our steering committee, you know, has authorized this sort of, you know, consensual priming. It's been discussed with the balance of the lender group; they are not objecting to it. Everybody realizes the practicalities of this. If you

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don't provide the funding, the company goes into Chapter 7.

You know, a week ago, they had \$40,000 in their bank account and they were telling us that they needed, you know, large sums of money to pay employees and to play -pay everything else. And, you know, we understand that. We did not want to see a train wreck. We are, I think, wearing the white hats here to try to make sure that there's a smooth landing into Chapter 11 so that these companies and all of their stakeholders can, in good faith, discuss a longer-term financial accommodation for these companies and a possible restructuring. Because there are no lot sales and no other sources of revenue for this company other than, you know, some ad hoc member fees, and the like, to fund a ski season coming up. Which is very important to them, Your Honor; but, again, funding \$15 million or \$18 million into this company to get into half of a ski season without the prospects for any larger solution that would afford any opportunity to repay that and to pay off my client's claims is -- you know, really begs the question of: Where are we going from here?

And we think that a three-week period of time allowing the company its own management budget to be funded to carry up this ramp up to the ski season -- and then have everybody sit down and decide whether there is going to be appropriate funding available, how it's going to work, and

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     what are the prospects of a transactional solution.
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     Because funding this company for the next six months or two
     years or whatever period of time it takes for there to be
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     any meaningful improvement in the real-estate market and
     the sale of lots by this company is, you know, a pretty
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     harsh scenario.
                THE COURT: Well, at this point --
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                MR. ALTER: Your Honor, just briefly, Your Honor.
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     I know this is simply argument, but forgive me if I'm not
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     taken by the argument that CS is a party wearing a white
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     hat here. Your Honor, what you're looking at is, is
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     someone who -- a lender that's providing, at an annualized
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     correlated interest rate of 425 percent, $4 million over
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     three weeks, 1.2 million of it which is set aside for their
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     own fees and costs.
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                THE COURT: Well, Mr. --
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                MR. ALTER:
                            If this lender wants to wear a white
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     hat, they -- (inaudible, talking over each other.)
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                THE COURT: Well, Mr. Alter, the concern and the
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     problem I have, though, with -- I understand your position,
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     but I also understand -- where else are they going to get
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     some interim DIP financing so that they can try to get this
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     thing reorganized? I mean I don't see you coming forward
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     with $4.5 million.
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MR. ALTER: Your Honor, I'm glad you asked me.

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The answer is CrossHarbor. What you heard is that CrossHarbor was --THE COURT: Well, what I just heard from CrossHarbor, from the testimony, is the terms are not as reasonable as these. MR. ALTER: What you heard, I believe, from the witness was that she favored the CrossHarbor term sheet up until the time that she spoke with CS and CS said that they refused to have anyone prime their liens although they were willing to prime their own unaffiliated -- (inaudible, talking over each other.) THE COURT: Well, at this point in time, I don't have any other evidence than what was testified to. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, I think, I mean for the reasons set forth in our papers, this is a truly onerous, onerous DIP only serving this lender. THE COURT: Well, then you've got to come forward and prove it to me. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, again, we are ourselves, as members, under a motion that was filed 36 hours ago, and I suspect that we will revisit this argument hopefully in three weeks. But I want the Court to please be clear in the way the members look at this, because this DIP was an entire disappointment to the membership that was

looking for some assurance that this club would continue,

that this club would be viable, that -- (inaudible, talking over each other.)

THE COURT: (Inaudible) -- my question. I mean I'm looking here at a debtor, four entities, that obviously have no ability to finance anything or to pay anything at this point without this DIP financing. Now, the terms, the 15 percent, some of the terms may not be as favorable as one would like to see or which may have been seen just a short period of time ago prior to the economic crisis, but it is what's on the table at this point, and I don't see anything else that I can look at to, to compare.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I understand, I understand the Court's predicament. It's, frankly, the same predicament that we have struggled with as a membership in talking to our clients. At the end of the day, we want financing, we want this club to continue. But, you know, let it be clear that this financing is not a white hat. It is far, far from it.

THE COURT: Well, whether it is or it isn't, it's what I have before me to deal with. I mean if the ad hoc committee of members want to come forward with some lending package that resolves the issue, I would welcome that at any subsequent hearing.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We appreciate that, that invitation, Your Honor, and very much intend over the

course of the next two or three weeks, should Your Honor approve this interim financing or even - I mean, obviously, the Court could delay the hearing on this - but to the extent that the Court approves this interim financing, spend the next three weeks trying to find the right solution for this club to give it some, some sense and some assurance that these jobs that are there -- there's 700-some-odd jobs, I believe, that are going to be saved, that the season is going to be maintained, and the value of this club is going to be maintained.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're all, we're all in favor of that, Your Honor, in maintaining the value of the club. It's our collateral. And, indeed, prior to today upon, you know, an invitation to talk, you know, very initially with the ad hoc committee, they were asked, "Are you willing to contribute financially to, you know, a solution, a DIP financing, an operation of the facilities?" And the initial response was in the negative.

However, Your Honor, we were hopeful that under the circumstances and the reality of bankruptcy, we will have more productive discussions with them and other stakeholders who have a vested interest in making sure that the wheels don't completely fall off in the coming weeks and this doesn't end up in Chapter 7. And, hopefully, these other parties will contribute to a solution because

it will be very difficult, I imagine, for the lenders themselves to again unilaterally continue to fund and provide financial accommodations for the long haul for a business model that at this time, given market conditions and the real hard reality of the world we're in, is not going to be generating much in the way of revenue.

THE COURT: Mr. Chehi, what impact does this ha

THE COURT: Mr. Chehi, what impact does this have on the Department of Revenue tax? Does priming have any impact?

MR. CHEHI: Your Honor, to the extent that there are valid, preexisting, unavoidable liens on these, these assets, we are taking junior, junior liens, not priming liens. We are recognizing the existence of a category of other claims.

THE COURT: Priority taxes.

MR. CHEHI: I'm not saying "priority taxes". If they're not secured, they're not priority. There's a lot of unsecured claims, I'm sure, in this case, that -- we're trying to, you know, again, for --

THE COURT: We just don't want too many of them.

MR. CHEHI: Yeah, we don't want too many of them. But what we're trying to do is to cover the administrative costs that are incurred. You know, someone came up here and, you know, questioned, it appears, the carve-out. You know, Your Honor, if you don't want a carve-out in the case

for the U.S. Trustee and for debtors' counsel fees, you know, we're agreeable to eliminating that. But in all fairness, you know, we would like to make sure that there's some independent -- (inaudible.)

THE COURT: I'm not going to eliminate the carve-out because, otherwise, it becomes very difficult for the debtor to find professionals to assist through the process.

MR. CHEHI: And they did not have to ask us for a carve-out, Your Honor; this was proposed Day 1. And, in fact, I think if the U.S. Trustee is here, they've seen the proposal, and we've talked to them. We've given a very -- what they felt was a fair proposal. You know, we're not asking for all kinds of what would be viewed in other circumstances, you know, very, you know, outrageous types of requests.

As far as the release, Your Honor, a lot of discussion about that today. And we'll have to get away from the witness, but let's talk a bit about the fact that the release that's being requested is typical of any release that any borrower in these circumstances, a Chapter 11 borrower or a prepetition borrower, makes when they ask for an over-advance or whatever it might be as a release.

That release, though, does not release any estate

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claims against Credit Suisse. It is not binding on anybody except these debtors and their capacities as borrowers. The creditors committee, a trustee, any other party in interest that has rights to, you know, vindicate the estates, the claims and causes of action, if any -- and I don't think there are any. All we would have is the tort of loaning money here, perhaps.

THE COURT: So without the release, you would not lend the \$4.5 million?

MR. CHEHI: Well, without the release from the debtors, yes, that's a requirement. But that is without prejudice to a creditors committee, you know, doing an examination of whatever the arrangements are between Credit Suisse - which is a true third-party lender here, Your Honor - and these companies. And if there's any, you know, qualification to the liens -- we provided our lien reports and, you know, the UCC filings and that type of analysis to the debtors before the filing. They requested that, they got it. These liens are good liens, Your Honor. But this is all without prejudice to somebody coming in and commencing an avoidance action on the liens. That's not what this case is about because that's not in the cards. If there are any other causes of action people want to, you know, dream up and assert against Credit Suisse, they're free to do it. We've built in a 90-day period for people

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     to do that. And, you know, we encourage the U.S. Trustee
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     to appoint a creditors committee, and everybody can look at
     it.
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                THE COURT: All the, all the liens have been
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     perfected?
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                MR. CHEHI: I believe so, Your Honor. I think
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     there were --
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                THE COURT: -- (inaudible, talking over each
     other) -- UCC?
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                MR. CHEHI: Absolutely. There may have been, you
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     know, what I would call a number of trivial, maybe, you
     know, trade-name or, you know, copyright type of issues, or
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     something like that, but those are immaterial in the big
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     scheme of things. We're talking about real estate and
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     sticks and bricks and the real stuff here, Your Honor, all
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     the equipment. Those are all good liens.
                And, again, we'll make it available to whomever.
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     We'll make it available to counsel here. All of these
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     records, they can go at it and take a look. But it's --
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     that's not going to be -- you're not going to hear about
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     that again, Your Honor, because it's going to be time sort
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     of wasted. But I encourage people to do it. We have
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     nothing to hide on that front.
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                THE COURT: Okay. Mr. McKay.
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                TRUSTEE McKAY: Your Honor, since we were
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mentioned, I'd just point out to the Court we did negotiate a little bit longer time for the committee on bringing any claims. With regard to the carve-out, we have not really had discussions on the carve-out. And recognizing that this is interim financing, we may have an issue that we will bring before the Court in any long-term finance package about the reasonableness of the carve-out as it should, in our view, extend to the fees of a -- I think a Chapter 11 trustee is probably remote, but certainly a Chapter 7 trustee. And we were -- are anxious to discuss that in the coming weeks, you know, with counsel for Credit Suisse. But that may be an issue that will arise some other day, so --

THE COURT: Yeah, okay. Thank you, Mr. McKay.

Mr. Patten.

MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, I want to make one point and then ask the Court if it would like more testimony.

But the debtor here has had two competing financing proposals, and the debtor had to weigh the merits and the positives and negatives of both, and she made a business decision. And I think that's entitled to a lot of weight by the Court. There are a lot of problems with the CrossHarbor proposal. It might get everybody through the Christmas season, but it really doesn't do much beyond that. And so I think that Ms. Blixseth's decision, unless

it is plainly wrong, ought to be given respect by the Court and, frankly, by the members.

Your Honor, if -- was the Court's only concern about the fair and reasonableness relating to the professional fees that are set out in the budget, or were there other concerns?

THE COURT: Well, it was the concern about the finding, that I'm finding that there -- it was a paragraph on page 6. It was troubling to me when I'm making a fair and reasonable decision when those may still need to be made.

MR. PATTEN: But that only relates to the professional fees, Your Honor, as opposed to the other aspects?

THE COURT: Well, related to the term sheet and use of cash collateral, fair and reasonable.

Now, as it relates to the payment of the other items on here such as payroll, utilities, fuel, I mean obviously those are actual expenses. I mean I don't think there's any question about, about those set forth; sales office operations. You know, I mean you can go down through them. I suspect that I don't have a problem with actual expenses and the fact that they're necessary for the operation of this business in the next three weeks.

There's just a concern that I had when -- I mean

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it looked as if there was going to be some limitation on a
subsequent hearing that I get this thrown in my face that,
"Well, you've already made a finding that it was all fair
and reasonable."
          MR. PATTEN:
                       Okay.
          THE COURT:
                      That's my concern on that.
          MR. PATTEN: Well, we can, we can put on some
more evidence, if the Court would like to hear it, about
the fairness and reasonableness of the overall proposal and
it how it relates to what --
          THE COURT: Well, I think, I think that the
interim order can be adjusted merely by some phraseology
subject to Court, Court review and approval as it relates
to the professional fees and expenses.
          MR. PATTEN:
                       Okay.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, the only thing
I would ask is that if, if it is subject to Court approval,
that it be on notice and with an opportunity for other
parties and creditors to object, as well.
          THE COURT:
                      That's, that's how we do it.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, I appreciate
it.
          THE COURT: Because, well, the rule allows fees
to be approved under $1,000 without notice and a hearing,
but I don't think that's going to happen in this case.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you, Judge.
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                MR. BUTLER: Your Honor?
                THE COURT: Mr. Butler.
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                MR. BUTLER: I'm sorry. I don't even know what
     version you're working on because mine was a 30-day
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     facility and you keep saying "21 days". But that's one of
     our concerns, both for the State of Montana and the
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     citizens of Montana, is that this order is packed full of
     statements and restrictions and the giving up of rights.
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     And it is an interim order. Now, if the interim order can
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     say "everything is subject to a final", I think we're fine,
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     but when they --
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                THE COURT: It has to. It's going to be subject
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     to a final.
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                MR. BUTLER: It needs to, Your Honor, because
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     the -- if you start looking at Paragraph 18 --
                THE COURT: Well, that's how we deal with interim
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     orders.
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                MR. BUTLER: Okay. I appreciate it.
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                THE COURT: I mean they're always subject to a
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     final.
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                MR. BUTLER: Because starting on page --
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     Paragraph 18 and Paragraph 20, we aren't the committee, we
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     won't ever be a committee, but anytime you're hamstringing
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     third parties' right to investigate, including subsequent
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trustees -- if you've heard anything, you've heard it's a
bad economy, we're under water, and the only lender that
will lend money is the lender that has skin in the game.
Trying to hamstring a subsequent trustee, at least from my
experience - and we can argument this at the final - is
wholly inappropriate. You don't know where the case is
going to go. If the debtor wants to give up rights, fine,
but don't impact third parties because we don't know what's
out there.
          THE COURT: And that's, in essence, what was just
said, that they won't.
          MR. BUTLER: Yeah, but --
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: We're not impacting
third-party rights except to the extent that if people want
to assert claims against us - and, again, I don't think any
such claims exist - they have 90 days to do it. This is
not going to be a languishing, you know, it will take two -
three years to figure out whether there's any claims
against Credit Suisse.
          You know, the alternative to this, Your Honor, is
simply that the money will not be available and this, this
company can -- it can have a Chapter 7 trustee tomorrow.
And that's, that's the stark reality.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, can I be
heard?
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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: These terms are very standard provisions that DIP lenders request and prepetition lenders request, and we want to, you know, have those are protections. We're agreeable to adjusting the reasonableness issue on the professional fees and expenses incurred by the lenders; but, otherwise, the order is the order. It's an interim DIP financing order which is, you know, subject to entry of a final order; it is nevertheless enforceable as to the amounts that are going to be advanced before the final order.

MR. BUTLER: And maybe I misunderstood it. Mine has 60 days, not 90. Thirty days isn't much more, but it's something.

THE COURT: Well, I think regarding -- it's about five o'clock. Obviously, because of staff and court security, we try to conclude these matters by five. Now, you all indicated that you're going to be around, many of the principal players are going to be around with discussions tomorrow, as I understand it. I did hear that, at least. I have Missoula hearings tomorrow, so I'm going to be here. And I guess I would like to see what the proposed order is, an interim order at this point in time is, so that I've got the latest version.

MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, we've lodged the latest version this morning.

1 THE COURT: That's the latest one? 2 MR. PATTEN: Oh, well, I don't know if we lodged it. I know that we provided chambers with a copy of the 3 latest. 4 THE COURT: Well, see, but when I open that up 5 and look at it, I've got -- there are two versions of the 6 term sheet, two versions of the interim order. I don't 7 8 know which -- one's Version 5 and 7, and one's Version, I don't know, 6 and 8. 9 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, it's the most 10 11 -- you know, it's the highest-number versions. I believe the term sheet is --12 13 THE COURT: Well, I'm not going to speculate as to which one it is. You need to get me the latest interim 14 15 proposed order. 16 MR. PATTEN: We will do that. 17 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, can I just 18 make one quick point? Because I want to make certain that the record was clear with a comment that was made. I 19 20 believe that a concern that was assuaged of this gentleman 21 was that everything is pending a final hearing; however, 22 what I believe that CS's counsel said was, "Subject to the 23 fact that it is binding as to any amounts that are financed 24 pursuant to the interim order." 25 Now, to the extent that the amounts are financed,

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you know, in the next three weeks until the -- up to the
final hearing, that doesn't provide much protection for
this gentleman's concerns.
          THE COURT: Well, do you have a comment --
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                 Yeah.
          MR. WHITMORE: Your Honor, can I be heard?
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the comment is the
order will govern the advances that are being made up until
the final order.
          THE CLERK:
                      Excuse me.
          THE COURT: Up to the extent of $4 million?
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Or some lesser amount if
the Court wants to allocate a lesser amount. You know, but
to tell you the truth, on this short period of time, it's
going to be almost the whole thing.
          THE COURT: Lynn?
          THE CLERK:
                      I apologize for interrupting, but
Patti wasn't picking up that gentleman's statement.
          THE COURT: I was also hearing somebody over the
telephone, I believe, that was trying to interject
something, maybe. Was I?
          MR. WHITMORE: Yes, Your Honor. This is Clark
Whitmore. I apologize. I don't if I -- how my reception
is coming through there.
          THE COURT: You're kind of faint.
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1 MR. WHITMORE: Can you hear me? 2 THE COURT: You're faint. Mr. Patten, can you hear it okay? 3 4 MR. PATTEN: I can hear him, yes, Your Honor. THE COURT: Okay. Please proceed. 5 MR. WHITMORE: I'll try to speak up. Obviously, 6 7 I'm counsel along with Mr. Cuffe to Mr. Snow. 8 And we certainly understand that the Court needs to approve some sort of financing that will enable the 9 debtor to continue its operations, but we believe that 10 11 since the prepetition lenders here are owed more than \$300 12 million, they should not be able to use their position as 13 DIP lenders for a real small amount of money in order to 14 benefit their status as prepetition lenders 15 inappropriately. I think that the order should be scrutinized very carefully with respect to 506(c) waivers, 16 cross-collateralization, releases, indemnifications. 17 Prohibitions on the use of money to investigate claims 18 against the prepetition lenders and various other 19 20 provisions really have no business in a case like this 21 where the prepetition lenders really are making a 22 protective advance to protect their own collateral. 23 they should be getting, with respect to their position as 24 prepetition lenders, should be getting a replacement lien, 25 and that's about what they should be getting.

And this law-and-order arguably is an effort by the prepetition lenders by making a very small DIP loan at a high cost to benefit themselves with respect to their prepetition position.

And we would like to have an opportunity at the continued hearing to, you know, go through in a very detailed basis the provisions of the proposed order that need to be challenged in that respect.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, for the record, I would very much echo those comments, and I thought they were very well-said. I know that we're coming through the close of our day. I do note for the record that we did file, on behalf of our client group, a full objection. And, obviously, the Court the entertain that at its discretion.

THE COURT: Yes, Mr. Chehi.

MR. CHEHI: I'll go to the podium so the comments aren't dropped. The 506(c) waiver is subject to the final hearing, Your Honor. There's no attempt to get a 506(c) waiver today. That's built into the order. We have tried to keep all of these provisions what I would call standard-practice provisions, at least in the jurisdictions that I've been practicing in in Delaware. We are not including any offensive, you know, elements to this. The, the prepetition lenders will receive as adequate protection

junior liens on, on the debtor's property subject to preexisting liens of third parties that are valid and enforceable and unavoidable, and the like.

I'm not sure what the cross-collateralization issue is. We're not trying to cross-collateralize. We're giving adequate protection liens to, to interests that are being primed subject to third-party interests.

And, again, I think you can, you can read through the order, and it's very fair. We're not looking to ask for more than we should get; and, frankly, any more than I would agree to as debtor's counsel in representation of the debtor. I've been on both sides of this. This order's a very straight order for financing in these circumstances, which are very risky; no prospective repayment at the end of three weeks if things don't go swimmingly and probably not any prospective repayment soon on any of these amounts even if things do go very well in terms of a reorganization process.

And so for all the complaining about how everything should be subject to be revisited, you know, there is provision in the order for an amount that is being authorized on an interim basis until you can get to the final hearing. And I assume we could have the final hearing in about, you know, two weeks out from now. And that -- you know, maybe we should look at the budget and

pick a date and allow the debtors to use an amount of money that takes them to the final hearing, and then that will be protected under the terms of this order. At the hearing, people can talk about 506(c) waivers and, you know, they can argue about that at that point; and then we can decide whether we're going to lend the additional amounts that are allowed to give the company another week or whatever it is that's remaining on the facility. You know --

MR. WHITMORE: You know, Clark Whitmore. It seems to me a great suggestion if the suggestion is that the prepetition lenders receive only a replacement lien at this point since they are, after all, principally real-estate lenders; and that the DIP lenders receive all the protections they're talking about; and that there be a final hearing set where these other provisions can be talked about. There's really no need to grant the prepetition lenders any relief other than a replacement lien at this point.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, all I can say is that we have a form of order here that is what we're going to have to proceed upon with the adjustment that Your Honor suggested and we're agreeable to, and that is subjecting the fees of the lender's professionals to, you know, a judicial reasonableness determination and a fee application subject to, you know, notice to the third

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parties, and the like. We're happy to do that. The other terms of the order are really, you know, what they are.

To the extent that Your Honor were inclined to authorize less than the full \$4.4 million or \$4.5 million today on an interim basis so that there's some portion of that for the third week, or whatever the time period is that would follow a final hearing, you know, hold that in reserve, we could, you know, adjust in some way the -- you know, that's where the parties get to adjust their rights. We could adjust the fees. You know, I'm trying to be reasonable here to make this -- I think it's actually going to be, from an administrative point of view, somewhat burdensome for the debtors, but if you're going to approve some sort of, you know, three-quarters, or whatever it is, advance off this 4.4 or 4.5, we could, you know, we can live with that. And the debtors are going to have to come back within a short period of time to allow the parties to, I quess, dispute about whether there's another week of financing that they need. Actually, the costs of doing that, and the like, could be relatively high, but we made provision for that in the order.

THE COURT: Well, but your budget lines out, in essence, that if it's approved, there's so much allocating each week --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right.

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                THE COURT: -- during the three-week period.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right. But we can
     -- you know, of course, as lenders, if the borrowers come
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     in and say, "Listen, we need to have an additional $50,000
     or $100,000 that's outside of the budget," the term sheet
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     provides that the budget can be adjusted because people may
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     not have clear visibility on what their issues are going to
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     be, financial needs two weeks from now. That's not unusual
     in a Chapter 11 case.
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                You know, we're willing to work within Your
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     Honor's authority. And if you want to scale back the
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     number to get - (inaudible) - final hearing, that's fine.
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                THE COURT: From the standpoint -- so, basically,
     you have financing that goes through the 30th; is that
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     right?
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The 21 days. It's a
     21-day financing.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                       The 30th.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                       Thirty days?
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                       It's the 30th of November.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The 30th of November.
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                THE COURT: It goes to the 30th, to the end of
     the month. So, in essence, and then you have another week,
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     December 5th, which is just kind of on the -- I guess in
     the future and not part of the 4.5.
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UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And that's the fourth week that we felt it was important for all the parties in interest and the Court to know what the additional immediate needs of the company appear to be, given their best forecasts now and budget, so that as the parties are having these accelerated discussions, they can focus on the need to step it up. There's another approximately \$2 million needed at that fourth week. THE COURT: Well, at this point in time, then --I mean, obviously, to have financing discussed and final, we would really need to have some type of hearing during the early part of the week of the 24th such as like Tuesday the 25th, it would appear to me. Because, otherwise, you're running into Wednesday, Thanksgiving is on Thursday day --UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: THE COURT: -- and the financing ends on the 30th. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Correct. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And, Your Honor, I think that's, you know, a practical issue. I'm suggesting here to the Court that conserving judicial resources and everybody else's resources here, it may be just as well to approve the entire amount to allow the company to get through to the 30th of November instead of having people

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spending a lot of time about this. But, again, we're --
          THE COURT: Well, no, but what I'm saying -- I
think you're misunderstanding what I'm getting to. So we
have something lined up on --
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                 Sure.
          THE COURT: -- December 1, there needs to be a
hearing prior to that time so we know what's going to
happen financing-wise as of the 1st.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I think you need to --
everybody has to --
          THE COURT: And, and that first week in December
may raise problems for people, people's availability. So
I'm just -- I'm looking to have some hearing prior to that
time, because by that time, you will have had not quite two
weeks to discuss where things are going financing-wise.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: And the other parties have
two weeks.
                      That's right.
          THE COURT:
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: It's a big "you", a Y-O-U,
capital "Y", because we are not the only solution here.
          THE COURT: I understand, I understand. In fact,
I would hope that the sphere becomes very large in what the
offers might be. And they may get very small. Who knows?
I'm just looking at this point -- so just keep that in mind
that it may be Tuesday the 25th we would have another
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1 hearing to discuss what happens after the 30th. 2 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I wanted to confirm that I -- I wasn't certain that Counsel, that Counsel understood 3 4 the point of Your Honor, that Your Honor is not just talking about a final hearing for this interim financing 5 6 but an additional hearing for further financing that would 7 extend beyond December 1st. 8 THE COURT: Well, yeah. I mean we have to. Where are we going to be on December 1? There won't be any 9 10 financing. 11 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: That's right, Your Honor. 12 THE COURT: I mean there's no need waiting until 13 the 2nd or 3rd because you've got employees, you've got 14 operations up there that are going to not be running. 15 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There will be a solution reached within the next two weeks or not. You know, and 16 17 then it may need to be documented and proposed to the 18 Court, but that's the point. THE COURT: So that's my thought. You look at 19 20 that. Now, you had indicated you were having meetings 21 tomorrow, probably this evening and tomorrow. I'm not sure 22 what people's schedules are. I realize not all of you may 23 be available -- maybe you will all be available, maybe 24 there will be more people available. But I want to be able 25 to review the final proposed order. And if I have

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questions, I want to be able to address them to somebody
before that's entered. And I guess I'd like to, you know,
basically tentatively set something right now for tomorrow.
          MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, we -- and maybe we
confused the Court by doing this, but we first lodged with
chambers the final proposed order and the final proposed
term sheet, and then we lodged a red-line version or a
black-line version that shows the changes from what had
previously been submitted to the Court. And that's -- I
think maybe that's what Your Honor's looking at in terms of
the version numbers.
          THE COURT: Well, we've got two separate e-mails
with four separate documents.
          MR. PATTEN: The second of those e-mails is the,
I believe, the red-line version.
                      Okay. Well, here's what I want, it's
          THE COURT:
not hard: I want the final proposed order and term sheet.
          MR. PATTEN:
                       Okay.
                      And I don't think that's what's been
          THE COURT:
filed at this point; maybe it is.
          MR. PATTEN: No, I think it is.
          THE COURT:
                      Okay.
          UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: There's one that I believe
may be filed under -- (inaudible, out of range of
microphone.)
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                MR. PATTEN: Right. But I filed the one --
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     (inaudible, talking over each other.)
                THE COURT: That was filed yesterday.
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                MR. PATTEN: Yeah, I know. But Mr. Chehi sent me
     one this morning that we then passed on to the Court this
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 6
     morning.
                THE COURT: Okay, there's another one that was
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     lodged this morning. So that's your most recent one?
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                MR. PATTEN: Yes.
                THE COURT: Okay. Let me just pull it up here
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     and see what the version is.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The correct version
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     numbers, Your Honor, is Version 13 for the term sheet and
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     Version 7 for the interim order.
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                THE COURT: Well, actually, the filed one doesn't
     have the versions on it.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: The very last page of
17
     the -- (inaudible, out of range of microphone.)
18
                THE COURT: Does it? Well, I have 27 pages here
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     with the last one for my signature, but it doesn't have
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     a --
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                MR. PATTEN: Well, we'll bring, we'll bring one
23
     over to chambers. We'll provide one.
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                THE COURT: Okay.
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                MR. PATTEN: I don't have one. I thought I had
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     one. You have one?
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                MR. CHEHI: I do.
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                MR. PATTEN: So maybe this is simple. Mr. Chehi
     has a copy.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: If I may approach the
     bench, Your Honor.
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                THE COURT: You may approach. So I've got an -
     (inaudible) - term sheet and a budget?
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Yes, Your Honor.
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                THE CORT: Okay, thank you. I appreciate that.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: (Inaudible, out of range
12
     of microphone) -- budget will be attached to that
13
     document -- (inaudible.)
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                THE COURT: So this hasn't changed from the 9th?
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: No.
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                THE COURT: Okay.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Your Honor, the comment
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     that I just heard from a couple of lawyers, including
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     myself, I was about to make, is: Obviously, we have not
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     seen that revised version yet that was submitted to the
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     Court. And so, hopefully, we get a copy at some point in
22
     time.
23
                THE COURT: I think that's reasonable. If this
24
     is the final one that's been lodged, it's Docket No. 17.
25
     Okay?
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One other thing procedurally -- and I don't want to keep, keep you much longer, but there's some things I just saw in looking through the docket that I think need to be addressed because it may be different here than in some districts: As you know, we have 10-day negative noticing. A motion's filed, there's a 10-day notice that goes with it for most motions. The opposing party has 10 days to respond and request a hearing. You do that right with the docketing.

When you go to docket your document, you should have a date that comes up, and you can fill in as to when the hearing will be and all of that. If you have any questions about that, check with either a fellow Montana practitioner or with the clerk's office so that when you set your response, you're setting it for hearing. And it will be set for hearing probably at the next hearing.

(Inaudible) -- particular case scheduled for that site. So for this case, since it's a Butte case, it would be set for December 9th, is the Butte hearing date that's been scheduled. It's right on our website. You can find out all the hearing dates for all the sites.

So it's your responsibility to get that location in there. It's also your responsibility when you file the motion to get the due date in there on the 10 days. So if you file something on the 12th, the due date's the 22nd,

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plus then we add in a mailing before we issue the order. But if there's not a response, it's granted on that -- on the appropriate day. I just wanted to note -- because some districts are different, and they do scheduling in chambers or in the clerk's office; here, you, the attorney opposing, schedules it. So just so you're aware of that. Tomorrow, I can't honestly tell you how long hearings may go. I know Mr. Patten may have -- I think you have some other hearings tomorrow, as well, or maybe some --MR. PATTEN: No, they're taken care of, Judge. THE COURT: Okay. So there may be resolution of some things that would have taken longer. So I guess I'm thinking that maybe we could -- depending on schedules, we could meet about one o'clock to see if there are any final issues that I might have based upon my review of the interim order. And if you want to be here and discuss them, you certainly are welcome to. And at that point, subject to minor change or some change, you know, an order will be entered. MR. PATTEN: Your Honor, I might advise everybody I have copies -- I think I have six or seven copies of the red-line versions from what was filed before that I'm happy to give to the first six people that want them.

THE COURT: Okay, very good. So one o'clock

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                And we'll meet again and see if there are any
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     final concluding issues that we need to go over before we
     proceed over the next three weeks, so forth. Okay?
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Is it fair to say, Your
     Honor, before you leave the bench for one second, that you
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 6
     have not yet addressed some of the more substantive
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     objections, that you'll enter an order but you have not yet
     ruled on the issues of the 506(c) waiver or the releases or
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 9
     the prepetition adequate protection? That has not yet been
     determined by the Court?
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                THE COURT: Well, I'll look at, I'll look at
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     this -- (inaudible, talking over each other) --
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                       Thank you.
14
                THE COURT: -- objections, see if there's
15
     anything final that we need to go over.
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                UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER:
                                       Thank you.
                THE COURT: We'll be in recess.
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CERTIFICATE I certify that the foregoing is a correct transcript from the electronic recording of the proceedings in the above-entitled matter, all done to the best of my skill and ability. Jonny B. Nordhagen